

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
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FOI/PA# 1356996-0

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-335707)

DATE: June 5, 1952

FROM : SAC, New York (100-69074)

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, with aliases  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

Rebulet 5-26-52.

Every effort will be made to submit a closing investigative report in this matter by June 15, 1952.

JJD:RAA

SP9 AG/dm 7/20/5 # 340,141  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-10-87 BY SP8 BTJ/ag

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/19/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY CFW:lr
TITLE <u>JOHN GARFIELD, was.</u> <u>John Jules Garfinkle, Jacob Garfinkle,</u> <u>Jules Garfinkle, "Julie"</u>			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C PERJURY

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

## PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

The Daily Worker issue of April 1, 1940, carried an article captioned "Stage Stars Greet Negro Congress, John Garfield is Honor Guest in Washington where Jim-Crow Bars Negroes from Theatre; urges Unity and Civil Rights," in which it was stated in part that JOHN GARFIELD, who was at that time starring in the play "Heavenly Express", was guest of honor at an informal gathering of Negro cultural figures "Thursday" night at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA.

The April 6, 1940, issue of the Afro-American, maintained at the Founder's Library, Howard University, contained on page 14 a group photograph including GARFIELD and "members of the cultural committee of the Washington council of the National Negro Congress."

On December 14, 1951, Major HARRIET WEST, having been sworn by W. R. SWEARGAN, Captain, AGC, made the following statement:

"I cannot remember the exact time and date that the attached photograph was taken; however, it was taken in the YWCA building which is located on the corner of Ninth and Rhode Island Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C. This photograph was probably taken in 1941 or 1942 before I entered the military service and because of the hats and dresses worn by the ladies present, it would lead me to believe that it must have been during the springtime. It is hard for me to remember so far back since it is nearly a period of ten years; however, it seems that this meeting was sponsored by either the Little Theatre Group or the Mary Anderson Citizen's Committee. I do not remember the principal speakers nor the topics discussed at the meeting since the main reason for my attendance was

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R. B. Woods</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	ENCLOSURE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (100-335707) 3 - New York (100-69074) 2 - Los Angeles (100-22503) 2 - Washington Field (100-24153)		100-335707-237 17 JUN 14 1952	INDEXED-136 RECORDED-136 EX-92

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WFO 100-24153

that I would have the opportunity to talk with a movie star, JOHN GARFIELD."

WITNESS:

Major HARRIET WEST, L303506,  
WAC, Assistant S-4, Wurzburg  
Military Post, A.P.O. 800,  
U.S. Army.

On October 24, 1951, Mrs. ELEANOR ARCHER WILSON was interviewed by Special Agents HARMON RACH and [REDACTED] She advised that she attended a meeting at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Rhode Island Avenue and Ninth Street, Washington, D. C., in the spring of 1940 at which JOHN GARFIELD spoke and expressed his regret that colored people were not allowed to attend the picture in which he was appearing at the Capitol Theater, Washington, D. C.

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Mrs. WILSON related that she was employed by the National Youth Administration at the time she attended this meeting but could not recall the name of the person who invited her to this meeting or the name of the movie playing at the Capitol Theater to which GARFIELD referred in his speech.

Mrs. WILSON was of the opinion that the meeting at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA was attended by approximately 200 people, that it was sponsored by the United Federal Workers of America and that photographs and more information could be obtained from the Afro-American newspaper in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. WILSON remembered that she was in a group photograph with GARFIELD and others taken at this meeting. She advised that she could recall no other movie stars or other dignitaries attending this meeting. She remembered that there was nothing of a subversive nature brought to her attention at this meeting.

WITNESS:

Mrs. ELEANOR ARCHER WILSON,  
Associated Publishers, 166 West  
Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



WFO 100-24153

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED], dated October 3, 1951, at Washington, D. C., and Bureau letter to New York dated May 26, 1952.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-335707)

DATE: June 3, 1952

FROM : SAC, WFO (100-24153)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURYRerep of SA [redacted] dated June 3, 1952,  
entitled as above.b6  
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At the time Major HARRIET WEST was interviewed (December 14, 1951) and gave the signed statement regarding her attendance at the YWCA at the meeting which GARFIELD attended, which statement was set out in the referenced report, she identified the individuals in the photograph taken at the affair as follows:

- (1) ALMA BROWN
- (2) Unknown
- (3) ART (WALLACE)
- (4) Mrs. ADDIE GARVIN
- (5) Mrs. HENRY WILLIAMS
- (6) Unknown
- (7) CLARENCE JOHNSON
- (8) Mrs. CLARENCE JOHNSON
- (9) ELEANOR ARCHER WILSON
- (10) Unknown
- (11) Unknown
- (12) HARRIET WEST
- (13) Unknown
- (14) Unknown
- (15) JOHN GARFIELD

DECLASSIFIED BY SP9AG/dmj  
ON 7/19/95 #340,141

2-23-84  
Classified by SP2TAP/wh  
Declassify on: OADR  
7/2/99  
SP7MAC/dd 9/12/86  
F/O Log 86-95

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OTHERWISE

In addition she stated that Mrs. ARABELLA DENNISTON, who is the secretary for Mrs. BETHUNE, President of the National Council of Negro Women, could be of a much greater aid in determining the individuals in the photograph. She also said that Mrs. DOUGLAS BRANCH, wife of Major BRANCH, Nurnburg, Germany, might prove to be of assistance in this regard.

On March 14, 1952, Miss ALMA BROWN was interviewed and advised that she did not attend the National Negro Congress affair held in March, 1940, which the subject attended, and could furnish no information regarding that function. She was shown the photograph taken at the meeting and identified one of the individuals therein as THELMA DALE (number 4 in the photograph).

Encl.

CFW:lr

2 - New York (100-69074) RM  
2 - Los Angeles (100-22503) RM

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WFO 100-24153

~~ARTHUR WALLACE~~ is undoubtedly identical with ~~ARTHUR WALLER~~ who has been interviewed in this matter.

By letter dated March 11, 1952, the Washington Field Office advised the Bureau that UACB the WFO did not intend to interview Mrs. ~~ADDIE GARVIN~~ due to the derogatory information regarding her in the files of this office. Subsequently, several individuals have identified the person believed by Major WEST to be Mrs. GARVIN, as ~~THELMA DALE~~.

On March 17, 1952, Mrs. HENRY WILLIAMS was interviewed and advised that she did not attend the affair held at the YMCA in March, 1940, and could furnish no information concerning either the meeting or the people who attended. She was shown the photograph which appeared in the April 6, 1940, issue of the Afro-American and identified the following individuals:

~~JEWEL MAZIQUE~~ (number 14), ~~ARTHUR WALLER~~ (number 3), ~~CLARENCE JOHNSON~~ (Number 7), and ~~THELMA DALE~~ (number 4).

By letter dated February 18, 1952, the Bureau directed the New York Office to attempt to locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. ~~CLARENCE JOHNSON~~.

The results of the interview with ~~ELEANOR WILSON~~ are set out in the referenced report.

Mrs. ARABELLA DENNISTON, National Council of Negro Women, advised on March 10, 1952, that she did not attend the affair at the YMCA in March, 1940, and could furnish no information regarding that event. From the photograph she identified Mrs. ~~DOROTHY ALEXANDER~~ (number 13) and ~~ELEANOR WILSON~~ (number 9).

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On March 15, 1952, the photograph was exhibited to [redacted] who identified ~~THELMA DALE~~ (number 4) and Mrs. ~~SHIRLEY TAYLOR~~ (number 11). (C) u

By letter dated May 16, 1952, the Bureau advised that an interview with ~~THELMA DALE~~, in connection with this matter, was not being contemplated at this time.

On March 3, and March 19, 1952, Mrs. MARY ALICE BRANCH, wife of Major MATTHEW BRANCH, Nevalisstrasse 22, Nurnburg, Germany, was interviewed by [redacted] and [redacted] Special Agents CIO. She furnished a signed statement to the effect that she is unable to furnish any information regarding the National Negro Congress meeting which GARFIELD attended or concerning the identities of the people who were there.

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On January 14, 1952, ELIA KAZAN, director on the stage and of motion pictures, appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, at which time he admitted having been a member of the Communist Party from approximately July, 1934, until January, 1936. During the hearing KAZAN was asked the following questions regarding the subject:

"Mr. KEARNEY: Do you know JOHN GARFIELD?"

"Mr. KAZAN: Yes, I do.

"Mr. KEARNEY: Do you know whether, to your knowledge, JOHN GARFIELD was a member of the Communist Party?"

"Mr. KAZAN: I do not remember. I am not ducking you. I am not saying I can't remember because I don't want to answer. But I cannot remember. In my time, he wasn't. The year he joined, I had just come into the group theater. He was a kid from the Bronx. That is what I remember about him. I don't remember his having been very much interested in anything except girls and acting during those years. When I left, after 1936 I don't know what happened. I just stayed away and kept more than arm's length, and I do not know what happened to any of them. I know one of them quit, one of those nine."

On April 10, 1952, KAZAN in response to his request to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, did so and at that time introduced a statement in which he named all of the individuals who were known to him as Communist Party members. JOHN GARFIELD's name was not mentioned in this statement.

By letter dated November 1, 1951, the Bureau granted authority to arrange interviews of members of the cast of the production "Heavenly Express." These interviews were to be confined initially to the four individuals listed in the Daily Worker article of April 1, 1940, namely ART SMITH, PHIL LOEB, WILL LEE, and CURT CONWAY. The New York Office was requested by letter dated January 7, 1952, to ascertain the whereabouts of the four individuals mentioned above and set out leads to have them interviewed in the event they were in New York City. The results of the interviews were to have been furnished the Washington Field Office for inclusion in a supplemental summary report.

The Bureau, by letter dated February 7, 1952, stated that the interviews with these individuals were to be conducted for the dual purpose of developing information concerning GARFIELD's connection with the Communist Party and the Young Communist League, as well as to

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determined the details of GARFIELD's appearance at the function of the National Negro Congress at Washington, D. C., in March, 1940.

On October 16, 1951, PAUL CROUCH, an admitted former member of the Communist Party from 1925 until 1942, furnished the following information regarding GARFIELD in a statement prepared by CROUCH:

"I have never met JOHN GARFIELD or as far as I know been at any meeting where he was present, and I do not recall any correspondence with him. My knowledge of GARFIELD has been obtained through conversations over a period of years with V. J. JEROME, TED WELLMAN (who was an assistant to JEROME on matters dealing with Hollywood and the stage in 1939-40), with PETTIS PERRY and PAUL CLINE, Party leaders in Los Angeles, through talks in the California District Buro of the Party in 1941. As a result of the passage of time I am unable to recall details of specific conversations or to quote statements made by individuals. My general recollection based on the discussions in meetings and with individual Party leaders is that JOHN GARFIELD was a member at large, responsible directly to the national office. V. J. JEROME was in charge of the Central Committee's apparatus for dealing with Hollywood and stage personalities from about 1934 until he left the party in 1942. Others I understood to be members at large and directly responsible to the Central Committee were CHARLES CHAPLIN, HUMPHREY BOGART, EDWARD G. ROBINSON, and JAMES CAGNEY. However, CAGNEY broke with the Communists and left the Party--approximately about 1939 as I recall--the only stage and Hollywood people of importance I recall meeting personally--as Communist Party members--were CLIFFORD ODETS and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

"The name of JOHN GARFIELD was mentioned on at least one occasion with the names of CHAPLIN, BOGART and ROBINSON--in the California District Buro during 1941. It was in connection with the suggestion that these people and others not named be approached for financial contributions for a People's World drive. They could not be asked for funds without permission from the Central Committee. WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN rejected the suggestion that such request be made. It was clear to me that these contributed financially to the Central Committee and therefore the District could not ask them for funds.

"About May or June, 1939, V. J. JEROME had me supplied with a list of Hollywood contributors to the Party and their addresses, also unlisted phone numbers, with permission for me to ask them for

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contributions to the Communist magazine, New South. This list included the names of CHAPLIN, BOGART, ROBINSON, JOHN GARFIELD, JAMES CAGNEY, SYLVIA SIDNEY, CLIFFORD ODETZ--with the total being some 300 (I did not approach these people for funds as a result of the outbreak of the World War and suspension of New South in September, 1939,--and during the summer I had been in Mexico). I did mail copies of the paper (June, 1939 issue I believe) to them so they would be familiar with the publication when we met. I was told to use JEROME's name in asking for contributions."

"JEROME was questioned on this matter before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The record shows the following questions and answers:

"Mr. LAVENNER: Did you make such a list, or any type of list available to PAUL CROUCH for the purpose of soliciting funds for the publication of New South?

"Mr. JEROME: What kind of list? Will you repeat that please?

"Mr. LAVENNER: A list of names of individuals in Hollywood to be used by PAUL CROUCH or any other person for the purpose of soliciting funds for the publication of New South.

"Mr. JEROME: I decline to answer this question in exercise of my rights against self-incrimination.

"Mr. LAVENNER: You are acquainted with PAUL CROUCH?

"Mr. JEROME: I decline to answer this question on the same grounds."

In regard to the information obtained from Mrs. ELEANOR ARCHER WILSON on October 24, 1951, which is set out in the details of the referenced report, Mrs. WILSON was asked if she was willing to give a signed statement and advised that she would rather not in view of the fact that the event took place so long ago.

On October 25, 1951, Mrs. BESSIE J. GOLDSTEIN and her husband, LEO GOLDSTEIN, accompanied by their counsel, DAVID REIN, appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities and were questioned concerning their knowledge of Communist Party activities on the part of the subject. They refused to answer any questions which would indicate that GARFIELD was a member of the Communist Party.

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FRANK L. SWADLEY, former manager of the Carlton Hotel, Washington, D. C., advised in November, 1951, that the National Theater sponsored several parties for film and stage celebrities at the Carlton in the early 1940s but that he does not recall GARFIELD ever attending such parties or ever being a guest at the Carlton while he, SWADLEY, was manager.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓  
 FROM : L. B. Nichols  
 SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD

DATE: May 26, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/laf

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alden \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

George Sokolsky advised me this morning that the Louis Nizer law firm has seized all of John Garfield's papers, including the rather lengthy statement which he had drafted and which was in the possession of Arnold Forster of the Anti-Defamation League.

Sokolsky stated that he has always had the feeling John Garfield, if he ever opened up and told the truth, could open the Communist infiltration into Hollywood, such as has never been done before. While he does not know the content of the Garfield statement, in view of the wife's known Communist leanings he is inclined to think that its seizure may have been an attempt to suppress it.

He further stated Garfield had told him he was broke and that a large portion of his money had gone to various causes and organizations. He asked Garfield where his files were and Garfield told him his lawyers had some and his wife had some.

The thought occurs to me that it might be highly desirable to contact the Louis Nizer law firm for the purpose of reviewing the John Garfield statement for any information which it might have on other matters in which we are interested.

cc: Mr. Ladd  
 cc: Mr. Belmont

LB N:hmc

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EX-130

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SAC, New York (100-69074)

June 3, 1952

Director, FBI (100-335707)-238

JOHN GARFIELD, was  
Security Matter - C  
Perjury

RECORDED - 33  
EX-130

SP9 AG-100 7/2/95 #340,141  
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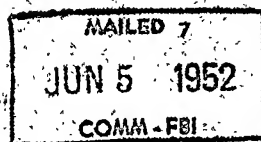
ReBulet dated May 1, 1952, with which was forwarded a Photostat of a document prepared by the subject entitled "Don't Be A Sucker For A Left Hook" and which was made available to the Bureau by the Anti-Defamation League on a confidential basis.

The Bureau is now in receipt of advice from George Sokolsky, columnist, to the effect that on the morning of May 26, 1952, the Louis Nizer law firm seized all of Garfield's papers, including a rather lengthy statement which he had drafted and was in the possession of Arnold Forster of the Anti-Defamation League. Sokolsky expressed the opinion that in view of the known Communist leanings on the part of Garfield's wife, the seizure of this unidentified statement may have been an attempt to suppress it. Garfield is alleged to have informed Sokolsky recently that he was broke and that a large portion of his funds had gone to various causes and organizations. At that time, Sokolsky asked Garfield where his files were located and Garfield replied that the lawyers had some and his wife had some.

It is noted that the statement in question, referred to by Sokolsky, may be the document entitled "Don't Be A Sucker For A Left Hook." It is also noted that at the time Garfield was interviewed at the New York Office on May 10, 1952, one Sidney Davis of the Louis Nizer law firm was present.

You are requested to arrange contact with the Louis Nizer law firm for the purpose of reviewing any statement or document prepared by Garfield which may be of interest to the Bureau. The basis for the information indicating the law firm to be in possession of such a statement should not be divulged at the time of this contact and, likewise, the fact that the Bureau has knowledge of Garfield's statement "Don't Be A Sucker For A Left Hook" should not be revealed. However,

WWK:nib



Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
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Glavin  
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Tracy  
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Holloman  
Gandy

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

the Bureau is desirous of ascertaining whether Garfield prepared any additional statements relating to Communist infiltration in theatrical circles either in Hollywood or New York or whether additional attempts were made by Garfield to explain his affiliation with front groups and his testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 24 1952

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Laughlin	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

WASH FROM NEW YORK 24

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5-26 P

DIRECTOR

URGENT

JOHN GARFIELD, WAS. SM - C. PERJURY. NY PRESS REPORTS OF DEATH  
OF GARFIELD CARRY STORY TO EFFECT THAT "AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH HE  
WAS SAID TO BE PREPARING A THIRTY PAGE STATEMENT MODIFYING HIS TESTIMONY  
LAST YEAR BEFORE HUCA, IN WHICH HE DENIED KNOWING A SINGLE COMMUNIST  
IN HIS NEW STATEMENT GARFIELD, WHILE STILL DENYING HE WAS A CARD  
CARRYING COMMUNIST, WAS REPORT TO HAVE ADMITTED HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH  
THE REDS AND CARRIED OUT THEIR ORDERS. GARFIELD-S DECISION TO TALK  
WHOM HE HAD BEEN MEETING". IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE STATEMENT REFERRED  
TO IN THIS ITEM IS THAT PREPARED BY GARFIELD FOR ADL WHICH WAS FORWARDED  
FROM BUREAU TO NY BY BULET MAY FIRST LAST. ANY DETAILS RE GARFIELDS  
DEATH OR STATEMENT MADE SUBSEQUENT TO INTERVIEW IN NYO OR TO ADL  
WILL BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED BUREAU

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HOLD PLS

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100-335707-239

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 10 1952

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

WASH 75 FROM NEW YORK 9 11-57 PM  
DIRECTOR URGENT

JOHN GARFIELD, WAS., SM DASH C, PERJURY. REBULT JUNE THIRD LAST, INSTRUCTING THAT INQUIRY BE MADE OF LOUIS NIZER LAW FIRM FOR PURPOSE OF REVIEWING STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY PREPARED BY GARFIELD, SUBSEQUENT TO INTERVIEW BY THIS OFFICE. MYTEL OF MAY TWENTYSECOND LAST SET FORTH INFO RECEIVED FROM BENJAMIN R. EPSTEIN AND ARNOLD FORSTER OF ADL, TO EFFECT THAT STATEMENT PREPARED BY GARFIELD AS REPORTED IN PRESS WAS MERELY RESTATMENT OF PREVIOUS ONE ENTITLED QUOTE DONT BE A SUCKER FOR A LEFT HOOK. UNQUOTE FURTHER THAT GARFIELD HAD PREPARED A LETTER OUTLINING HIS ASSOCIATIONS AND RECOLLECTION THEREOF FOR A POTENTIAL MOVIE EMPLOYER. AT THAT TIME FORSTER ASSURED THIS OFFICE THAT NOTHING IN EITHER OF THESE WAS CONTRADICTORY TO HCUA TESTIMONY, NOR ANY INFO ADDITIONAL TO THAT FURNISHED BY GARFIELD ON INTERVIEW. IN VIEW OF ABOVE BUREAU ADVISE IF CONTACT WITH NIZER LAW FIRMS STILL DESIRED.

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EX-130

14 JUN 17 1952

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61 JUN 20 1952

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY 0081070102

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: JUNE 11, 1952

URGENT

SAC, NEW YORK

JOHN GARFIELD, WAS., SM DASH G, PERJURY. REURTEL JUNE NINE  
LAST. BUREAU DESIRES CONTACT BE MADE WITH LOUIS NIZER LAW  
FIRM AS INSTRUCTED BULET JUNE THREE IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN  
WHETHER STATEMENT OF INTEREST TO BUREAU WAS PREPARED BY  
GARFIELD OTHER THAN DOCUMENT QUOTE DON'T BE A SUCKER FOR A  
LEFT HOOK UNQUOTE.

HOOVER

WWK:jd tX

G.I.R. 3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 STS/LOO

RECORDED-137

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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SENT VIA

M

Per

October 8, 1951

MEMO

251354  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/15/85 BY SP8BJ/WA  
10-36-87 SP8BJ/WA

Re: JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C; PERJURY

Pursuant to information set forth in the memorandum of SA [redacted] dated August 21, 1951, in this matter and supplementary information provided by SA [redacted] interview with Mr. and Mrs. HARRY GERSH of 204 Dante Avenue, Tuckahoe, New York was conducted by SA HERBERT B. GRANT and the writer on September 29, 1951.

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b7C

Mrs. GERSH, the former VIOLET EBERIL, advised that in the period 1930 through 1932 she was a member of the Bronx Free Fellowship, which she described as a discussion or open forum group which met in various places in the vicinity of 163 Street and Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York City. She stated that the group held their meetings occasionally in a Masonic Temple in that vicinity and also at the headquarters of the Unitarian Church also in that vicinity. She stated that the group was headed by the Reverend LEON ROSSER LAND, whom she described as a minister of the Unitarian Church. She stated that the membership in the Bronx Free Fellowship was loosely defined in the sense that there was no real roster of members or any officers but simply consisted of a participating group which generally speaking was the same from meeting to meeting. She stated that the meetings were conducted free of parliamentary procedure and that their meeting style was most informal. She added that while the Fellowship was under the sponsorship of the Reverend LAND, that it was completely free of actual religious affiliations and by the same token fairly free from political affiliations. She stated that the membership by and large consisted of those who were socialistic in thinking and definitely in the anti-Communist camp.

Concerning fractionalizing within the fellowship Mrs. GERSH stated that while her group, the socialistic group, were definitely anti-Communist she was not aware of any particular group within the fellowship who could be classified as being within the Communist camp. She stated that to her recollection the

D:ws

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ENCLOSURE



MEMO  
NY 100-69074

fellowship was not seriously divided between young Communist league and the socialist group nor was she aware of any effort on the part of any Communist who might have been a part of the fellowship to attempt to capture the group for their purposes. She stated that the lack of parliamentary procedure in the handling of their meetings was such as to effectively forestall any possible attempt by the young Communist league to capture either the group or the conduct of the various meetings they held.

Concerning the subject of this case, Mrs. GERSH advised that she, during the period 1930 to 1932, was extremely well acquainted with him on a purely personal basis. She stated that the subject was never a member of the Bronx Free Fellowship and if he attended any of their meetings it was on possibly one or two occasions when he accompanied her to a meeting at her request. She advised that her recollection of any visits he made to a fellowship meeting was in a purely spectator vain and that he did not take part in any of the discussions which were had at those various times.

She stated that the basis of her personal connection with the subject whom she then knew as JULES GARFIELD was one of boy and girl friend. She advised that sometime in 1930 she met the subject at a summer camp at Wingdale, New York, where the subject was then a counsellor in tennis or some other sport. She stated that he was extremely poor and in those days politically unawakened. She advised that insofar as he said anything or did anything he appeared to have absolutely no interest in the political scene. She stated that she could definitely state the subject was not then a member of the young Communist league because if such had been true that would have meant the termination of their personal relationship. She added that during that period the subject was in attendance on a scholarship at the EVA LE GALLIENE School for actors on East 19th Street, New York City. She stated his entire life and his entire thinking was taken up with the field of acting and insofar as she knew absolutely unconcerned with political matters. She recalled that the subject in those days lived in the vicinity of East 181st Street and Southern Boulevard in Bronx, New York.

Mrs. GERSH advised that her romance with the subject terminated in 1932 for reasons which were not political. She advised that subsequent to 1932 she was in contact with the subject on one occasion and that being a letter she directed to

MEMO

NY 100-69074

him and which remains unanswered to this date.

Mr. GERSH advised that in the late 30's, possibly 1937-1938, he was part of the Southern Tenant Farmer's Union with headquarters in New York City. This organization he described as one interested in the plight of the southern tenant farmers and to this effect in that period of years they scheduled a week known as Share Croppers Week. He advised that this week was for the purpose of raising funds to assist the destitute southern tenant farmers and this on one occasion ran a benefit performance to raise funds.

He added that the organization contacted the subject at that time to appear on their platform as a benefit performer. He stated that the subject agreed to perform but approximately a week to ten days before called to state that he was unable to make an appearance on the occasion scheduled.

Mr. GERSH stated that recalling his wife's interest in the subject requested that she write GARFIELD reminding him of his agreement to perform with the view of having the subject changing his mind. This letter which Mrs. GERSH advised she did write the subject is the letter referred to heretofore and which remains unanswered.

In this connection, Mr. GERSH advised that it is of interest to note that on the night their benefit performance was scheduled, on the night when GARFIELD was scheduled to appear, that he failed to do so but appeared on the platform of a rival organization which he described as Communist dominated and which he then and now interprets as an effort by the Communist group to sabotage the efforts of the Southern Tenant Farmer's League to run a successful benefit performance.

Mr. GERSH stated that he was unable to recall the name of the Communist organization which ran a performance on the same night but he described them as having a title similar in sound as theirs.



MEMO

NY 100-69074

Mrs. GERSH advised that subsequent to 1932 she had no information as to the activities of the Bronx Free Fellowship but suggested that two other individuals could possibly be contacted at this time and who may be in a position to supply information concerning the fellowship subsequent to 1932.

She described these individuals as AARON LEVINSTEIN of the Research Institute, 295 Madison Avenue, New York City, and MORRIS CAHN, a teacher in the New York City Public School System on Staten Island.

*James A. Davis*  
SA *JD*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. M. LADD

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C; PERJURY

DATE: May 2, 1952

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_

Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Clegg \_\_\_\_\_

Glavin \_\_\_\_\_

Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Rosen \_\_\_\_\_

Tracy \_\_\_\_\_

Harbo \_\_\_\_\_

Belmont \_\_\_\_\_

Mohr \_\_\_\_\_

Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_

Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## PURPOSE:

To advise that an article entitled "The Day the FBI Came to Our House," written by Harry Gersh, was published in the January 1952 issue of the magazine "Commentary," which is published by the American Jewish Committee.

## DETAILS:

On September 29, 1951, in connection with the investigation of instant case, Special Agents [redacted] and James A. Davis of the New York Office conducted an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gersh, 204 Dante Avenue, Tuckahoe, New York. Investigation in the Garfield perjury case had disclosed that Mrs. Harry Gersh, the former Violet Eberil, had been Garfield's girl friend during the period from 1930 to 1932 and the purpose of the interview was to obtain from Mrs. Gersh any pertinent information she could recall from her association with Garfield.

b6  
b7c

*Detached and handled separately*

A memorandum for the New York Office file dated October 8, 1951, reflecting the results of this interview was prepared by Special Agent Davis and a copy is attached. This memorandum indicates that Mrs. Gersh freely discussed her relationship with Garfield as well as her activities in the Bronx Free Fellowship, a Socialistic discussion group to which she belonged during this period. According to Mrs. Gersh, Garfield accompanied her to one or two meetings of the Bronx Free Fellowship purely as a spectator. She advised that her romance with Garfield terminated in 1932 and she has not seen nor heard from him since. She advised that so far as she knew Garfield had no interest whatever in political matters but was entirely occupied with the field of acting.

Mr. Harry Gersh advised that knowing of his wife's former relationship with Garfield he suggested that she write

Attachment - Magazine

EBR:rdm

68 JUN 23 1952

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20 JUN 5 1952

EX-164

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to Garfield about 1937, requesting Garfield to appear at a benefit performance put on by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union of which he, Gersh, was a member. The purpose of this benefit was to raise funds for destitute southern tenant farmers. Garfield did not answer this letter but, according to Mr. Gersh, appeared at a benefit of a rival organization described as Communist dominated by Mr. Gersh but the name of which he could not recall. Mrs. Gersh furnished the names of two other individuals who might possess information concerning the Bronx Free Fellowship during the period from 1930 to 1932.

#### AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE:

The Bureau's files reflect that the American Jewish Committee, which publishes the magazine "Commentary," has been continuously anti-Communist in expression since its incorporation in 1911. In 1944 it withdrew from the American Jewish Conference when the Jewish People's Fraternal Order, a Communist-dominated group, was admitted to membership in the conference. The American Jewish Committee has been attacked several times by the "Daily Worker" as a "Red-baiting organization."

The article by Harry Gersh appears on pages 38 through 43 of the January 1952 issue of the "Commentary." A copy of this issue is attached. An editor's footnote on page 38 reads as follows: "Came the 1950's, and thousands of quiet, law-abiding Americans found themselves undergoing an experience novel to the American scene: the FBI came to their homes and asked them to talk about someone they knew - not in the way of idle gossip, but to help fill out an FBI dossier. Here, Harry Gersh tells of such a visit, and describes how he and his wife felt about it. Mr. Gersh is Assistant Educational Director of the Textile Workers of America (CIO) and has been a frequent contributor to "Commentary."

The article itself purports to relate the details of the interview and frequently plays up the alleged shock to average Americans caused by FBI Agents coming to their homes and questioning them about their activities and associates of years ago. There are no charges as to the conduct of the interviewing Agents, although Gersh attempts to portray the Agents as sinister individuals in spite of their typical American appearance and manner.

**HARRY GERSH:**

As stated above, Gersh is the Assistant Educational Director of the Textile Workers of America and a frequent contributor to "Commentary." Neither Gersh nor his wife has been the subject of a Bureau investigation. The Bureau's files, however, reflect the following information concerning a Harry Gersh. The "Daily Worker" of July 2, 1937, contains an article concerning a demonstration organized by the Communist Party in front of the Italian Consulate in New York City on July 1, 1937. The "Daily Worker" reflects that among the persons addressing the crowd was Harry Gersh, New York City Secretary of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. Other speakers included Hal Siegal, a known Communist Party member, and Tim Holmes, at that time Educational Director of the New York State Communist Party. (61-7566-550)

The North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy was cited as a Communist organization by the Attorney General on April 27, 1949.

The Bureau's files further contain a letter on the official stationery of the Italian-American newspaper "La Stampa Libera," signed by Harry Gersh, Assistant to the Editor. The letter is an appeal for funds to assist the newspaper which is described as "the one authoritative voice of anti-Fascist Italy." The letter further states that "after twelve years there is danger that our championship of the workers, our efforts to end that tyranny and despotism that is Fascism may have to end." (61-7561-163X1)

**OBSERVATIONS:**

It appears obvious that Gersh siezed upon the interview as the topic for an article primarily because of the attitude taken by many organizations, anti-Communist as well as pro-Communist, that prying into the past activities and associates of an individual constitutes a violation of his or her civil liberties. Gersh attempts to make a routine interview appear as an invasion of the privacy of an average American home. Both Gersh and his wife, had they so desired, could have declined to submit to the interview. They not only did not do

so but on the contrary freely discussed pertinent matters with the interviewing Agents. Although the article is obviously exaggerated in many ways and false inferences may be drawn about the Bureau's reason for conducting the interview, it is not felt, in view of the information set out in this memorandum concerning Gersh, that any useful purpose would be served by pursuing the matter any further with either Gersh or the American Jewish Committee.

**ACTION:**

None, this is for your information.

*sl*

3 Enclosures to Bureau

Re: JOHN GARFIELD  
SM - C

PERJURY  
(NY 100-69074)



ENCLOSURE

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243

MEMO  
NY 100-69074

The interview was terminated in a natural manner, all possible info having then been obtained from the GERSHES and thereupon Agents departed promptly.

JAMES A. DAVIS, SA

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: May 16, 1952

FROM : SAC, New York Attention: Mr. Milton A. Jones  
Crime Records SectionSUBJECT: (100-69074)  
JOHN GARFIELD;  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURYSPECIAL DELIVERY

G. I. R.

K 4-1

Reference is made to the telephone conversation had this date between Mr. Milton A. Jones and Special Agent James A. Davis of this office.

There are being forwarded herewith the original and two copies of a memorandum prepared by Special Agent Davis comprising the comments of Special Agents [redacted] and Davis in connection with the article appearing in the January, 1952, issue of the magazine, "Commentary".

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b7C

Enclosures (3)

~~EXPEDITE PROCEDURE~~

100-335707-243

13 ENCL

JAD:MEW

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BJS/08

ENCLO. ATTACHED

65 JUL 9 1952

HANDLED BY  
STOP DESK

JAD:MEW



DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

June 12, 1952

In the attached magazine  
"Hollywood Life", the FBI is  
mentioned on page 2 in connection  
with the John Garfield article.

On page 8, Special Agent  
[redacted] is mentioned.

[redacted] Special Agent  
[redacted]

Senior Resident Agent at San Jose, Calif.

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. Ladd ☒  
Mr. Nichols ☒  
Mr. Belmont ☒  
Mr. Clegg ☒  
Mr. Glavin ☒  
Mr. Harbo ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Tracy ☒  
Mr. Laughlin ☒  
Mr. Jones ☒  
Mr. Mohr ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Mr. Holloman ☒  
Miss Holmes ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

b6  
b7c

Attachment

ENCLO. BEHIND FILE

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/af

ENCLO.

SE 21

RECORDED - 911/00

JUN 18 1952

51 JUN 30 1952

HANDLED BY  
STOP DESK

Mr. John Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear John Edgar,

Thank you very  
much.

84-1  
G.I.R.-6

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY 3578 BTJ/af

Faithfully yours,

Dave Clements Dave Clements

General Delivery  
Norton, Texas

RECORDED - 56

INDEXED - 56

JUN 18 1952

277  
70 JUN 26 1952

isack necessary  
TEB  
TEB

He suffered from heart trouble,  
according to reports. But whether  
or not his death at 39 resulted  
from natural causes is still a  
question to me. You might  
investigate the past activities  
of the actress in whose apartment  
he was found dead for any signs  
of Communist associations.

Truly,  
Dave Clements  
General Delivery  
Denton, Texas

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I should like to suggest  
that your organization look  
into the death of Actor #4-1  
John Garfield in New York  
recently. John<sup>®</sup> Garfield

According to Time Maga-  
zine, Garfield had once been  
linked, perhaps unwittingly, with  
Communist organizations. Recently  
he had written his experiences  
with the Communists, and how  
they duped him and hurt him.  
I believe they have not yet  
been published, though I am not

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP2 BTJ/ab

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100 - 335707 - 246

JUN 18 1952

EX-99

ORIGINAL

ONLY 700

mpk sure.  
ack 6-4-52  
JFK

RECORDED - 56

June 4, 1952

INDEXED - 5600 - 33-707-246

Mr. Dave Clements  
General Delivery  
Denton, Texas

Dear Mr. Clements:

Your letter postmarked May 31, 1952, has been received.

I sincerely appreciate the courtesy and interest which prompted you to furnish me your views on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

TEB:bbm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY 202 BTJ/ag

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Laughlin  
Mohr  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman  
Gandy

MAILED 7  
JUN 5 1952  
COMM. FBI

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: <sup>①</sup>JOHN GARFIELD, Deceased  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
PERJURY

DATE: May 21, 1952

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_

Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Belmont \_\_\_\_\_

Clegg \_\_\_\_\_

Glavin \_\_\_\_\_

Harbo \_\_\_\_\_

Rosen \_\_\_\_\_

Tracy \_\_\_\_\_

Mohr \_\_\_\_\_

Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_

Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

John Booth of the International News Service telephonically inquired of Mr. McGuire in my absence tonight at 6:45 p.m. as to whether the FBI was investigating John Garfield, who died today in New York, on a possible perjury charge. Booth stated apparently the story has gotten abroad in New York that Garfield was under active FBI investigation at the time of his death.

Booth was informed that the FBI had no comment to make.

The fact of the matter is that at the request of the Department a pending investigation by the Bureau was under way in the New York Office to check the possibility of Garfield's having committed perjury.

Mr. Belmont of the Domestic Intelligence Division was advised of the inquiry and concurred in the no comment reply.

cc: Mr. Ladd

cc: Mr. Belmont

JJM:hmc

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/alp

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STOR DESK

100-335707-247

JUN 3 1952

61 JUN 26 1952

5-6th

RECEIVED DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Laughlin	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

*[Handwritten signature]*

WASH FROM NEW YORK 99 13 11-53 PM

DIRECTOR DEFERRED

*BAIRD GARDNER*

JOHN GARFIELD, (WAS., SM-C, PERJURY. REBUTEL JUNE ELEVEN, LAST. SIDNEY DAVIS, OF LAW FIRM OF LOUIS NIZER, ATTORNEY FOR SUBJECT, CONTACTED EVENING OF JUNE TWELVE, LAST. HE ADVISED THAT SOLE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT PREPARED BY GARFIELD PRIOR TO DEATH WAS DRAFT OF LETTER TO POTENTIAL MOVIE EMPLOYER OUTLINING CIRCUMSTANCES WHEREBY HE HAD BEEN CALLED BEFORE HCUA. DAVIS STATED NOTHING IN STATEMENT CONTRADICTORY TO HCUA TESTIMONY AND CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS ADMITTED NO PERJURY NOR NAMED NO CP MEMBERS. DAVIS STATED HE RETURNED THE DRAFT OF THIS LETTER TO GARFIELD-S WIDOW BUT WILL ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN COPY OF SAME FOR REVIEW BY THIS OFFICE. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED.

SCHEIDT

HOLD PLS

*SP9 AG/dny 7/19/95 #340,141*  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/08  
RECORDED-128 100-335707-248

EX-92. 13 JUN 25 1952

*Mem to Tolson 7/1*  
*6/20/52*  
*6/20/52*  
*60 JUN 30 1952*

*cc Mr. Klepper*  
*1503*

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓  
 FROM : L. B. Nichols  
 SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD

DATE: June 20, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8/STJ/098

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

I had previously reported that the Louis Nizer law firm had seized all of John Garfield's papers. This was based upon information from George Sokolsky.

The New York Office interviewed Sidney Davis, who advised that the sole additional document prepared by Garfield prior to his death was a draft of a letter to a potential movie employer; that there was nothing in the statement contradictory to his testimony.

In a conversation with Victor Riesel, he inquired whether we had ever gotten the Garfield papers, inasmuch as he and Sokolsky had discussed the matter of additional papers prepared by Garfield. I told Riesel we had not gotten any papers; that Sidney Davis had merely stated there was nothing significant prepared.

Riesel stated this is not true; that there were several pages of notes dictated to Helen Auerback, who is secretary to Arnold Forster; that these notes point out who contacted Garfield in connection with various fronts, tell of how one of Garfield's secretaries influenced him into various activities and give a very good and complete picture of Garfield's activities, which he felt we should have in our files in order to have a full picture.

Riesel stated there would be no objection, if we wanted to go back to Davis, to telling him in an interview with Victor Riesel, Riesel had told us there were several pages of stenographic notes which Helen Auerback had which had been turned over to Davis.

It is suggested that we follow through on this.

cc: Mr. Ladd  
 cc: Mr. Belmont

LBN:hmc  
*June*

RECORDED-128

100-335707-249

DEC 25 1952

JUN 30

JUN 25

5-60



~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney  
Criminal Division

June 18, 1952

Director, FBI

JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY  
FBI file 100-335707

DECLASSIFIED BY 202 (513) 108  
ON 10-30-87

Reference is made to your memorandum dated  
May 25, 1951, (JMM:DLF:ub 146-1-12-845), in the captioned  
matter.

There ~~was~~ enclosed one copy each of the reports  
of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, dated June 2,  
1952, and Special Agent [redacted] Washington, D. C.,  
dated June 3, 1952, pertaining to this investigation. b6 b7C

In view of the death of John Garfield on May 21, 1952,  
investigation of this matter has been suspended and the attached  
reports reflect only investigative activity conducted by this  
Bureau prior to Garfield's death. Another such report is  
being prepared by our New York Office and will be submitted  
to you immediately upon its receipt. No further investigation  
will be conducted by this Bureau in connection with this  
matter in the absence of a specific request from you. E

Enclosure

100-335707-250

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EX-130

JUN 25 1952

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM

JUN 18 9 25 AM '52

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Laughlin
- Mohr
- Tele. Rm.
- Holloman
- Gandy

65 JUL 3 1952

COMM - FBI  
JUN 18 1952  
MAILED 28

100-335707-250

EL

7/13

SAC, New York (100-69074)

June 23, 1952

RECORDED-128, 100-335707-247

Director, FBI (100-335707)

EX-92

JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP-2 BJJ/af

Rebulet 6-3-52 and urtel 6-13-52.

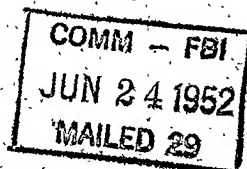
Concerning the matter of additional documents left by Garfield prior to his death, the Bureau is in receipt of the following information from Victor Riesel who has been contacted by your office in connection with this matter. Riesel advises there were several pages of notes dictated to Helen Auerback, who is Secretary to Arnold Forster of the Anti-Defamation League, and that these notes point out the identity of the individual who contacted Garfield in connection with various fronts, relate the manner in which one of Garfield's secretaries influenced his participation in various activities and are alleged to give a very good and complete picture of Garfield's activities. Riesel felt this information should be available to the Bureau for the completion of our files.

It is noted Riesel was informed that Sidney Davis of the Louis Nizer law firm had stated no document of any significance had been prepared by Garfield prior to his death.

Riesel has advised that he would have no objection if Bureau representatives in an interview with Davis advised him that Riesel had informed the Bureau there were several pages of stenographic notes given to Helen Auerback which allegedly had been made available to Davis.

In view of the above, it is suggested that Davis of the Louis Nizer law firm be recontacted in an effort to determine the accuracy of the information forwarded by Riesel. In the event Riesel's allegation is true, copies of any documents prepared or dictated by Garfield which would be of interest to the Bureau should be obtained and forwarded for review. It is suggested this matter be afforded your prompt attention in order that Riesel's allegation may be substantiated or refuted at an early date.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



20 JUL 7 1952

WWK:jd

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JUN 23 6 03 PM '52

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

SAC, New York (100-69074)

August 5, 1952

Director, FBI (100-335707)

JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

*emp*  
Rebulet 6-23-52, and urtel 7-3-52.

Please advise the Bureau at once the present status of this matter, including details of further contacts with Sidney Davis concerning the letter allegedly dictated by Garfield to a prospective motion picture employer, which Davis indicated he would attempt to obtain from Garfield's wife. It is further requested that you inform the Bureau the date your office now expects to submit the closing report in this matter.

TOC: jdt

SP9 AG/dmy 7/19/95 #340,141  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/kpf

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100-335707-257  
AUG 6 1952

EX-130

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
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Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

55 AUG 11 1952

COMM-FBI  
AUG - 5 1952  
MAILED 18

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*903*

100-335707

The Attorney General

July 10, 1952

Director, FBI

SIDNEY MARTIN DAVIS

Sidney M. Davis, New York, New York, attorney for the recently deceased movie actor John Garfield, on July 3, 1952, advised Agents of this Bureau that he may shortly return to government service as Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General, which post has been offered to him by you. Davis indicated that he has endeavored to secure leave of absence to accept the proffered post. (Unrecorded teletype from NY "John Garfield, was., SM-C, Perjury," 7/3/52)

Sidney Davis was investigated in June and July, 1945, as a Departmental applicant-attorney. Memorandum and copies of reports in that investigation were furnished to the Department, directed to your attention, on June 29, 30, July 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, and 18, 1945, captioned "Sidney Martin Davis, Departmental Applicant-Attorney." A memorandum dated September 20, 1945, furnished additional information concerning Davis. No additional investigation has been conducted concerning him.

As you will note from a review of these reports and memoranda the following pertinent information was reflected:

The Brooklyn, New York, election records of the 15th Election District of the 7th Assembly District in 1944 reflected that Davis had registered to vote as a member of the American Labor Party. (Ibid23)

The American Labor Party was cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as follows:

"Forty years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control."

77-31691

PFD:fh

DECLASSIFIED BY

ON 11-2-87

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

65 AUG 1 1952

ORIGINAL FILED IN 77-31691-20

Helen Bryan, of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, made numerous attempts in August, 1945, to contact Davis at the Department with the apparent purpose to get Davis to urge Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black to speak at the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee rally at Madison Square Garden, New York City, on September 24, 1945. Miss Bryan finally arranged an appointment with Davis to see him in Washington. Noninformation has been received to confirm Davis' meeting with Bryan or the nature of her meeting with him, if held. (Tesur to RE 8200 (Dept of Justice Ext. 594; 77-31691-23))

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been cited by the Attorney General as Communist.

Helen R. Bryan, prior to September, 1944, was identified as a member of the Communist Party and in close contact with many prominent Communists. (Tom Ward, discont, questionable; Special Squad I, NYC PD; Tesurs; 100-206852-16)

In addition to the information set forth above, incorporated in the mentioned reports and memoranda, our files also reflect the following:

It was reliably reported that the item "Sidney Davis, RE 8200 (6r 9200), Ext. 594" appeared on a Telephone index guide in use in the office of the Executive Secretary of the National Lawyers Guild in Washington, D. C. some time prior to January, 1950. RE 8200, of course, is the telephone number of the Department of Justice. (Anonymous; 100-335469-40, pg. 14)

It was reliably reported that Sidney Davis, 570 7th Avenue, New York, New York, was a member of the National Lawyers Guild in 1945 and 1946.

The National Lawyers Guild was cited as a Communist front by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. (Anonymous; 100-7321-23, pg. 86)

Information was also received that Sidney Davis, former employee of the Department of Justice, was Executive Secretary, State Headquarters, American Labor Party,

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

570 7th Avenue, New York, New York, in March 1946. Later information was received that Sidney Davis "of the American Labor Party" resigned from that Party prior to July, 1946, "for personal reasons." The American Labor Party was previously referred to in this memorandum. (Justice Dept. Personnel file; Tesur; 100-236194-132, pg. 8)

The foregoing information is furnished for your confidential use and is not intended for dissemination.

- 3 -

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



WASH FROM NEW YORK 82

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9-28 PM

DIRECTOR URGENT

JOHN GARFIELD, WAS. SM - C. PERJURY. REBULET JUNE TWENTY THREE LAST. GARFIELD-S ATTORNEY, SIDNEY DAVIS, INTERVIEWED JULY THREE RE EXISTENCE OF NOTES ALLEGEDLY DICTATED BY GARFIELD TO HELEN AUERBACK OF A DL. STATED HE KNOWS OF NO NOTES BUT PRESUMED THEY WERE DRAFT OF LETTER BY GARFIELD TO DAVIS- PARTNER, ARTHUR KRIM, FOR PRESENTATION BY LATTER TO SPYROUS SKOURAS, POTENTIAL MOVIE EMPLOYER OF GARFIELD. REITERATED AS IN PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT LETTER OUTLINED GARFIELD TESTIMONY BEFORE HCUA AND GAVE GARFIELD-S RECOLLECTION OF NATURE OF ASSOCIATION WITH PERSONS ABOUT WHOM HE WAS QUESTIONED BY HCUA. SPECIFICALLY STATED REISEL WAS IN ERROR IN STATING THAT NOTES OR THE LETTER RELATED THE MANNER IN WHICH ONE OF GARFIELD - S SECRETARYS INFLUENCED HIS PARTICIAPTION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. REITERATED THAT LETTER CONTAINED NOTHING WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN STATED BY GARFIELD TO HCUA AND BUREAU. DAVIS STATES HE HAS NOT AS YET

END OF PAGE ONE

Spq AG/dny 2/19/95 #340,141  
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DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/a/p

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NOT RECORDED  
1331 JUL 24 1952

ORIGINAL FILED IN 77-34691-26

PAGE TWO

OBTAINED COPY OF LETTER FROM MRS. GARFIELD SINCE HE HAS NOT SEEN HER BUT EXPECTS TO SEE HER WEEK OF JULY SEVEN NEXT AND MAYBE ABLE TO OBTAIN COPY THEN. DAVIS REITERATED AT LENGTH HIS BELIEF THAT GARFIELD TOLD COMPLETE TRUTH AND STATED HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED HCUA ACTED UNFAIRLY IN REFERRING CASE TO DEPARTMENT. DAVIS EXPLICIT IN STATING HE BELIEVED BUREAU INVESTIGATION WAS EXTREMELY FAIR. BUREAU ATTENTION CALLED TO FACT THAT AT CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW, DAVIS ADVISED HE MAY SHORTLY RETURN TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO AG WHICH POST HAS BEEN OFFERED HIM BY AG. STATED HE IS ENDEAVORING TO SECURE LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ACCEPT SAME. CLOSING REPORT WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COPY OF AFOREMENTIONED GARFIELD LETTER.

SCHREIBT

END

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RECORDED - 65

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: August 6, 1952

To: Commissioner  
Alcohol Tax Unit  
Bureau of Internal Revenue  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080  
ON 3-11-77

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN GARFIELD;  
ROBERTA GARFIELD;  
NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT;  
FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *[Signature]*  
DATE 3-13-77 *[Signature]*

As of possible interest to your Agency, the New York Office of this Bureau is in receipt of the following information obtained from Mr. Raymond Yard, Superintendent of an apartment house located at 88 Central Park West, New York City.

According to Mr. Yard, he is holding two trunks and a wooden box, which items were to be picked up by Roberta Garfield prior to July 31, 1952. Roberta Garfield, widow of the late John Garfield, formerly resided at 88 Central Park West. The two trunks in question have the name "John Garfield" lettered thereon; however, the only identification appearing on the wooden box is a tag of Lyon Storage Company, no address.

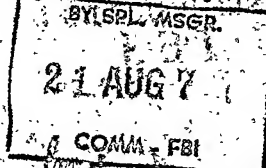
Yard advised on August 4, 1952, that the wooden box had been accidentally dropped revealing the contents to be as follows:

One machine gun with 11 ammunition clips partially loaded, also several loose cartridges.

One hand grenade (potato masher type)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

WWK: jdt  
7/10/52



57 SEP 23 1952

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-336054-1

One 37 mm shell, projectile and powder removed,  
detonating cap intact.

One overseas-type cap with red star thereon.

The machine gun in question appeared to be in operating condition, was apparently a .45 caliber gun with a folding wire stock, no manufacturer's name, serial number 59166.

In view of the fact that a possible violation of the Federal Firearms Act or the National Firearms Act is involved, these data are being furnished your Agency for whatever action may be considered warranted.

Similar information is also being made available to the New York Office of your Agency by the New York Office of this Bureau.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

FROM : Mr. C. E. Hennrich

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

DATE: August 4, 1952

ROBERTA GARFIELD  
SECURITY MATTER - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP3 BTJ/08

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Mohr  
Tele. Rm.  
Nease  
Gandy

Supervisor Tom McAndrews called from New York at 5:50 P. M. He stated that Mr. Raymond Yard, Superintendent of the apartment house at 88 Central Park West had called the New York Office and requested that an Agent call on him. Mr. Yard advised that he was holding in the basement two trunks and a wooden box which Roberta Garfield was to have picked up prior to July 31, 1952. Roberta Garfield previously lived at 88 Central Park West. The two trunks have the name John Garfield lettered thereon. The only identification on the wooden box is a tag of a Lyon Storage Company, no address.

Mr. Yard advised that the wooden box had been accidentally dropped and contained therein was:

- One machine gun with 4 ammunition clips partially loaded, also several loose cartridges
- One hand grenade (potato masher type)
- One 37 mm shell, projectile and powder removed, detonating cap intact
- One overseas-type cap with red star thereon

The machine gun in question appeared to be in operating condition; was apparently a 45 caliber gun with a folding wire stock; no manufacturer's name; Serial No. 59166.

You will recall that John Garfield was recently deceased and was the subject of a perjury investigation growing out of testimony which he gave before the HCUA. Garfield was

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AUG 11 1952

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one of the Hollywood group under investigation by the HCUA in connection with Communist activities. His position has been that his wife was responsible for his involvement in front organizations and that he had separated from her immediately prior to his death.

#### OBSERVATIONS

There is a possible violation of the National or Federal Firearms Act in connection with the possession of the machine gun in question and also the hand grenade. While the presence of the overseas-type cap with the red star stown thereon does carry with it the inference of Communist or Russian significance there is no apparent violation of the law.

The Garfield case has been most controversial.

The trunks located at 88 Central Park West have not been opened or examined by the superintendent.

There is no record of a machine gun with Serial No. 59166 in the National Stolen Property file.

It appears advisable under the circumstances that the Bureau should advise the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Treasury Department which has <sup>preliminary</sup> investigative jurisdiction under the National and Federal Firearms Acts in order that they can take appropriate action to determine if a violation of those Acts exists.

#### RECOMMENDATION

If you agree, the New York Office will be instructed to advise the Alcohol Tax Unit of the information received for such action as they deem appropriate. The New York Office should arrange with the Alcohol Tax Unit to have an Agent accompany them during their examination of the materials and since they may proceed on the basis of a search warrant and examine the trunks in question it is felt that an Agent should be present to protect the Bureau's interest in the event other material of a Communist nature is found.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-335707)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-69074)

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, with aliases  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

DATE: August 21, 1952

Rebulet 8-5-52.

Since the last personal interview of attorney SIDNEY DAVIS on July 3, 1952, several efforts have been made to reach DAVIS telephonically so as to ascertain whether or not he was able to secure from Mrs. GARFIELD the letter which JOHN GARFIELD allegedly prepared to ARTHUR KRIM. These efforts were unsuccessful; DAVIS' office advising on each occasion that he was not then in the office. The last attempt was made on August 20, at which time DAVIS' secretary advised that Mr. DAVIS had been ill for several days with a streptococcus infection in the throat and it was not expected that he would return to work for several days. She promised that immediately upon Mr. DAVIS' return she would have him contact Special Agent [redacted] of this office, who is handling this matter.

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b7C

In view of the above, the submission of a closing report will be held in abeyance until it has been ascertained whether or not DAVIS was successful. Immediately thereafter a closing report will be submitted.

JJD:RAA

SPAG/dmy 7/19/95 #340,141  
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DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/afp

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SAC, New York (100-69074)

August 28, 1952

Director, FBI (100-335707)

JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

Re Bureau letter dated August 5, 1952.

Please comply with Bureau instructions set forth in the referenced letter and inform the Bureau forthwith the approximate date the Bureau may expect to receive the closing report in this matter.

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DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/SP8

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mlm

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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AUG 28 1952  
COMM - FBI

RECEIVED  
FBI  
RECEIVED - CIVIL ROOM

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY  
Bureau File 100-335707

DATE: September 8, 1952

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERTA GARFIELD  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
Bureau File 100-336054

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/KO

PURPOSE

To provide you with further information concerning the machine gun and ammunition found in a wooden box belonging to Roberta Garfield at 88 Central Park West, New York City.

DETAILS

Reference is made to the memorandum from Mr. C. E. Hennrich to Mr. A. H. Belmont dated August 4, 1952, concerning the above matter which is attached.

The New York Office by memorandum dated August 14, 1952, advised that per instructions from Mr. Hennrich the information regarding the machine gun and ammunition found in Mrs. Garfield's locker at 88 Central Park West, New York City, were turned over to Mr. Timothy J. Cussack of the Alcohol Tax Unit on August 5, 1952.

On August 6, 1952, the Alcohol Tax Unit confiscated this material. Two other empty trunks, in addition to the crate containing this material, were left behind by Mrs. Garfield when she moved from this address to 173 Riverside Drive, New York City, on July 31, 1952, and it is believed by the superintendent, Mr. Raymond Yard of 88 Central Park West, New York City, that Mrs. Garfield, has abandoned both the trunks and the crate.

Mr. Cussack has identified the machine gun as a Smizer MP 40, German made, better known as a Burp gun. It was in operating condition when found.

Attachment

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EX-129

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Mr. Cussack advised that no decision has yet been made by their office to interview Mrs. Garfield. He stated that it is believed Mrs. Garfield has no knowledge of the gun, and they have decided to wait a couple of weeks to see if she calls for the trunks and crate. At that time, they will decide what action to take, and he indicated that if the material appeared to be abandoned, no action would be taken.

RECOMMENDATION

None. This is for your information. You will be advised of any pertinent information received.



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-335707)

DATE: 9/9/52

FROM : SAC, New York (100-69074)

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, was  
SM - C  
PERJURY

Rebulet 8/28/52.

On 9/4/52 SIDNEY DAVIS, former attorney for the late subject, advised that as yet he had not heard from Mrs. GARFIELD, who was scheduled to return to New York from Fire Island after Labor Day. DAVIS stated he is confident he will be able to secure the document desired for review by this office.

In view of the Bureau's desires, every effort will be made to submit a report by 9/15/52.

REGISTERED MAIL

JJD:TXD

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DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/ajp

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WAVE  
Kemp

66 SEP 19 1952

EX-65

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SEP 11 10 22 AM '52

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INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/25/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/12/51-5/26/52; 6/3-6,9-13,25, 26,27/3,10,18/4, 6,21/3,8-12/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE <b>JOHN GARFIELD, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C PERJURY</b>

DECLASSIFIED BY *Sp9 AG/dmj*  
ON *7/18/95* # *340,141*

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Confidential source provided copy of letter from source of unknown reliability, alleging GARFIELD and wife were members of the Communist Party with LEO and BESSIE JAFFE GOLDSTEIN. LEO GOLDSTEIN refused interview of self and wife. LESTER FULLER, former motion picture director, admits former CP membership at NYC, but denies any knowledge of CP membership on part of GARFIELD. Officials of Anti-Defamation League interviewed and said GARFIELD made no admissions of former CP membership to them. ELIA KAZAN, stage and screen director, admits membership in CP at NYC, but had no knowledge of membership by GARFIELD. Reliable informants state they have no knowledge that GARFIELD was CP member. One informant stated she assumed he was "part of the Communist Party". Efforts to locate former maid and election records at NY negative. GARFIELD interviewed at his request, 5/10/52. Details set forth. Subject died of heart attack at NYC, 5/21/52.

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Declassify on: OADR  
10-6-52  
10-6-52*

*9/15/86  
Classified by *Sp9 mac/d*  
Declassify on: OADR  
File Reg 86-95  
Kew  
TR*

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**DETAILS:** Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, provided a copy of a letter directed to a member

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Leland B. Goodman</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<b>COPY IN FILE</b>		<b>100-335707-25</b>	<b>RECORDED 7/15/52</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ - Bureau (100-335707) (REGISTERED MAIL) 1 - Los Angeles (Info.) (100-22503) (REGISTERED MAIL) 1 - Washington Field (Info.) (100-24153) (REGISTERED MAIL) 3 - New York (100-69074)		<b>SEP 26 1952</b>	<b>INDEXED - 44</b>
COPIES DESTROYED <i>10/1/62</i>			

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of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the portion of which relating to JOHN GARFIELD is quoted as follows:

~~MRS.~~ JOHN GARFIELD has not told the complete truth about his knowledge of Communism. If you can locate the Negro maid who was a part time employee for Mrs. GARFIELD some time between 1936 and 1939 here in New York, she can tell you about both Mr. and Mrs. GARFIELD. This maid joined the Communist Party through Mrs. GARFIELD, who was a member of the Party. She said when she started to work for GARFIELD, JOHN GARFIELD was rehearsing for a play and was so poor he had only one shirt and she had to wash and iron it every day and poverty caused Mrs. GARFIELD to join the Party. Two of their best friends were BESS JAFFE GOLDSTEIN and LEO GOLDSTEIN, who at one time lived at 1075 Grand Concourse in 1938 or 1939. Both of the GOLDSTEINS were teachers and organizers in the Party, according to the story of this employee of Mrs. GARFIELD. They all joined the Party under assumed names and were known by their assumed names.

"After JOHN GARFIELD went to Hollywood, he came back in 1939 to visit and met Mrs. GARFIELD and she was very much upset because he would have nothing to do with Communism. Letters were exchanged between Mrs. GOLDSTEIN and MRS. GARFIELD on this subject and Mrs. GARFIELD told Mrs. GOLDSTEIN to have patience with JOHN GARFIELD as he was so confused, but she would try to make him see it their way. BESS JAFFE GOLDSTEIN and her husband worked for her brother who was in business under the name of BROWN on Fifth Avenue as a greeting card concern."

It is to be pointed out that the reliability of the writer of the above letter was unknown to T-1.

On December 28, 1951, the writer and SA [ ] contacted LEO GOLDSTEIN at his place of employment, Wallace Brown, Inc., 225 Fifth Avenue, New York. As soon as the agents identified themselves, GOLDSTEIN stated that he refused to discuss any matter whatever with the agents and immediately turned and walked from the reception room

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from which he had previously emerged.

Immediately thereafter, an effort was made to contact BESSIE JAFFE GOLDSTEIN at her residence, 46 West 83rd Street, New York City. Here a youth, apparently the son of the GOLDSTEINS, answered the door and stated his mother was not at home and the time of her expected return was unknown to him. On this same date, several efforts were made to contact Mrs. GOLDSTEIN with negative results.

On the morning of December 29, 1951, a further effort was made to interview BESSIE GOLDSTEIN at her home. The door was opened by LEO GOLDSTEIN, who, recognizing the agents from the previous day, stated that he and all members of his family had no intention of talking to any FBI agents. GOLDSTEIN was requested to hear the purpose of the interview and he said, "I will give you 30 seconds to state it". He was briefly advised of the purpose whereupon he stated that he and his family were still unavailable for interview. He was requested to call his wife so that the agents might speak to her personally, but he declined to do this and closed the door.

In view of the above, no further efforts were made to interview the GOLDSTEINS.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, on June 25, 1945, provided a list of names believed to be a membership list of the Thomas Jefferson Club, CPA, New York County. On this list appeared the name and address of LEO GOLDSTEIN, 46 West 83rd Street, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised on March 31, 1948 that AL LANNON of the National Communist Party Headquarters, attempted to contact LEO GOLDSTEIN at Murray Hill 5-1640. This number was listed to PHILIP JAFFE at 225 Fifth Avenue, New York City. (S) u

AL LANNON is a member of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party and is now on trial in Federal Court, Southern District of New York, charged with conspiracy to violate the Smith Act.

With reference to the aforementioned PHILIP JAFFE, Confidential Informant T-4, of unknown reliability, who has

- 3 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

provided both reliable and unreliable information in the past, advised that LEO GOLDSTEIN is the brother-in-law of PHILIP J. JAFFE, being married to the latter's sister, BESSIE. T-4 advised JAFFE formerly owned Wallace Brown, Inc., at 225 Fifth Avenue, where GOLDSTEIN is still employed, and where BESSIE GOLDSTEIN was once employed.

T-4 further advised that he was well acquainted with LEO and BESSIE GOLDSTEIN, but has no knowledge as to whether they were members of the Communist Party. Informant stated he believed the GOLDSTEINS were acquainted with JOHN GARFIELD, but had no knowledge of the extent of their friendship. T-4 had no knowledge as to GARFIELD'S alleged membership in the Communist Party.

With reference to PHILIP JAFFE, the following identifying data is being set forth:

PHILIP JAFFE, owner and co-editor of the defunct magazine "Amerasia", former owner of Wallace Brown, Inc., Greeting Cards, 225 Fifth Avenue, and five others were arrested by Bureau agents on June 6, 1945, charged with conspiracy to violate sub-section C and D of Section 31, Title 50, USC in violation of Sections 88, Title 18, USC.

A Federal Grand Jury returned an indictment against JAFFE on August 10, 1945 at Washington, D.C., charging "a conspiracy to embezzle, steal and purloin property, records, and valuable things, the property of the United States Government in violation of Sections 100, 101, 234 and 235 of Title 18, USC, all of which is contrary to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided, to wit, Section 88, Title 18, USC."

The criminal files of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Criminal Case No. 75457, reflect that on September 29, 1945, JAFFE withdrew his previously filed plea of "not guilty" and on the same date pled "guilty" to one count for violation of Section 88, Title 18, USC. Having been convicted on his plea, he was sentenced to pay a fine of \$2500, which was paid on the same day that he was sentenced.

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It will be recalled that information had been received that LESTER FULLER had been named as a Communist or former Communist who might have knowledge of GARFIELD'S membership in the Communist Party.

FULLER was interviewed on the morning of March 26, 1952 in his suite at the Hotel Park Royal, 23 West 73rd Street, New York City, by SAS [redacted] and [redacted]

At the outset, FULLER was advised that the interview concerned JOHN GARFIELD. FULLER acknowledged that he was a friend of GARFIELD and had been acquainted with him since 1937 or 1938 when GARFIELD was then appearing with the Group Theater in New York City. b6 b7C

FULLER stated that he was then employed by Paramount Pictures, Inc., in New York and knew GARFIELD through his theatrical activities. He stated that their association, because of the very nature of show business, extended into a social level and he and GARFIELD saw each other regularly at private parties and restaurants such as Sardi's, frequented by the theatrical set of New York.

FULLER stated that he went to Hollywood in 1941, subsequent to GARFIELD'S move there and continued his association with GARFIELD on a social basis. He said that they frequently attended the same parties and occasionally played cards in the same group. He stated that he last saw GARFIELD approximately two months prior to the date of this interview here in New York City at a theatrical party.

FULLER was asked if he knew whether JOHN GARFIELD ever was a member of the Communist Party. He replied "I would not know." Asked whether he had any knowledge of whether GARFIELD had ever been a member of the Young Communist League, FULLER gave the same reply. Identical replies were given by FULLER in response to questions as to knowledge of membership by ROBERTA GARFIELD in the Communist Party or YCL. Asked for a more responsive answer, FULLER stated that he did not know whether JOHN or ROBERTA GARFIELD were or ever had been members of the Communist Party or YCL.

FULLER was asked whether he had been a member of the Communist Party at any time. He hesitated and then asked,

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"Is this the House Committee on Un-American Activities?"

He was assured that the interviewing agents did not represent the House Committee on Un-American Activities, but represented the Bureau and were conducting an investigation at the request of the Department of Justice.

FULLER then stated that he was a member of the Communist Party for several years in New York during the late 1930's. He advised that about 1936, he was recruited for the Communist Party by one BOB REED, an actor, who he now believes is dead. He stated that he had heard once during World War II that REED was a teacher in the U.S. Army. He stated that REED, if alive, would be in his late forties in age. He stated that he attended Communist Party meetings at irregular intervals from 1936 to about 1939 or 1940, at a Party meeting hall located on a corner in the West Side of Manhattan, probably in the vicinity of 48th or 49th Street at 9th Avenue.

FULLER stated that when he left New York and went to Hollywood in 1941, he had already dropped out of Communist Party activities and did not resume them in Hollywood. He specifically denied that he had transferred to a Los Angeles or Hollywood Branch of the Party and denied that he had ever rejoined the Party or resumed activities on behalf of the Communist Party.

With regard to his connection with the "Daily Worker", FULLER stated he had sold theatrical advertisement space for this paper solely because of the pecuniary gain to him, and the ease with which he could solicit these advertisements because of his theatrical contacts.

FULLER stated that GARFIELD was definitely not a member of the Communist Party Club in New York City to which he, FULLER, belonged, and added that he had never observed GARFIELD at a Communist Party meeting and had no knowledge that GARFIELD was a Communist. He stated that he recalled a party held at the home of actor, GENE KELLY, in Hollywood about 1944 when GARFIELD, having recently returned from entertaining American troops in Italy, made some heated remarks about the activities of certain unions impeding the war effort. FULLER stated that he could not recall the complete nature of these remarks because he had been drinking considerably, but did recall that the remarks were received

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very unfavorably by individuals described by FULLER as the Hollywood Left Wingers.

Concerning his own membership in the Party, FULLER stated he was unable to recall the name of the club to which he belonged or its designated number. In addition to the aforementioned BOB REED, who recruited him, FULLER could recall only two other members namely, LIONEL BERMAN and HAROLD BOLTON, both actors.

FULLER described REED as over six feet tall and heavy set. It is believed likely that REED is identical with the late BOB REED, was. ROBERT REED, ROBERT CHARLES CAILLE, a former Communist Party functionary, in the Cultural Division, who died on May 11, 1950, at New York City.

~~LOUISE~~ Concerning LIONEL BERMAN, the latter is probably identical with LIONEL BERMAN who has been head of the Cultural Division of the Communist Party and is the husband of LOUISE ROSENBERG BRANSTEN.

Concerning HAROLD BOLTON, it is believed likely that the latter is identical with HAROLD BOLTON, was. HAROLD BALOUGH, a former resident of New York, and a National Organizer of the Communist Party, former State Secretary of the Communist Party of Louisiana and former Secretary, District 27, of the Communist Party, at Birmingham, Alabama. This BOLTON was formerly an actor and stage director and was last reported to be residing at 1874 Hastings Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio.

It is noted that FULLER identified as Communist Party members three individuals who have maintained rather open association and positions in the Communist Party. He claimed an inability to recall other members associated in the Communist Party with him, claiming that the other members of his club were engaged in occupations other than theatrical and he had no close personal contact with them.

FULLER volunteered that he was aware of the fact that MARTIN BERKELEY had appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and given testimony that he had been recruited for the Communist Party by FULLER. FULLER stated that this was untrue, that BERKELEY was "crazy", and that one

COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY  
VICTOR RIESEL EMPLOYED BY NEW LEADER  
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of the criticisms of him within the Communist Party was his failure to recruit members. FULLER again specifically denied Communist Party membership or activity subsequent to his move to California in 1941.

In conclusion, FULLER was questioned as to whether he was acquainted with LEO or BESSIE JAFFE GOLDSTEIN, and he replied that these persons were unknown to him.

It will be recalled that an article written by VICTOR RIESEL appearing in the "New Leader" of March 24, 1952, contained information to the effect that GARFIELD was preparing to make public announcements as to how he got "roped in" and that he was preparing to take part in anti-Communist demonstrations.

RIESEL was interviewed by the writer on April 3, 1952, at which time he stated that the information appearing in the above column was obtained from ARNOLD FOSTER of the Anti-Defamation League in New York City. RIESEL stated that apparently GARFIELD had offered to appear at anti-Communist meetings and had made offers to FOSTER to arrange this. RIESEL was most specific in stating that he had no information that GARFIELD would admit Communist Party membership, but rather would probably attempt to explain membership and association with Communist Party fronts.

On April 7, 1952, FOSTER was interviewed by SAS [redacted] and [redacted] at B'Nai B'Rith Headquarters, 212 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Present at the time of interview was BENJAMIN R. EPSTEIN, National Director of B'Nai B'Rith, who explained that he was present at all recent conferences between GARFIELD and FOSTER and might possibly recall additional instances unrecalled by FOSTER. FOSTER and EPSTEIN were advised that the purpose of the Bureau investigation was to determine if GARFIELD had testified truthfully before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. They were advised that information had been received by the Bureau that GARFIELD was preparing to make certain disclosures concerning the Communist Party and that possibly the nature of these disclosures had been discussed with FOSTER.

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FOSTER advised that he had received word from VICTOR RIESEL of the Bureau's interest in GARFIELD and would be

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glad to relate the complete details of his connections with GARFIELD.

FOSTER related that he first met GARFIELD about 1930 while both were students at the De Witt Clinton High School in New York. Both of them were interested in dramatics and had principal roles in the school's dramatic productions. FOSTER believed GARFIELD came to De Witt Clinton in his third year and had attended at least one other high school prior thereto. FOSTER could recall only one associate of GARFIELD, one MARIO BIVONA, a Bronx boy who was also active and very adept at dramatics, and headed an amateur dramatic group which met in a public school on Fordham Road opposite Fordham University, and produced and directed plays.

FOSTER believed this group may have been known as the Fordham Players and is certain it had no official connection with any school. FOSTER has heard nothing of BIVONA since that period and has no idea of his whereabouts. FOSTER continued by saying his association with GARFIELD and BIVONA ceased in 1931 when FOSTER graduated from high school.

FOSTER'S next contact with GARFIELD occurred some months ago when GARFIELD and his Attorney, LOUIS NIZER, approached the Anti-Defamation League and requested assistance in clearing himself of charges of being pro-Communist. FOSTER and EPSTEIN discussed this between themselves and agreed that they would meet with GARFIELD, hear his story, and question him as to the associations to which he was linked by the book "Red Channels".

FOSTER and EPSTEIN advised that they had conferred with GARFIELD several times in the past few months. Further, that GARFIELD had subsequently denied membership in the Communist Party or YCL and had claimed that some associations with pro-Communist groups were due to a lack of political astuteness. They stated that GARFIELD had explained to them that other associations occurred when his name was used by organizations without his knowledge. FOSTER said he was unable to recall the specific explanation given by GARFIELD as to association with any specific group since no record of their conversations was kept and the conversations were informal.

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FOSTER further recalled that GARFIELD stated that his statement to the House Committee on Un-American Affairs that "he did not know any Communists" was made because he actually had no personal knowledge of any individual being a card carrying member, and while he might have suspected individuals of being Communists, he did not desire to name them as such without the aforementioned knowledge.

FOSTER said that while discussing this, he had asked GARFIELD if the latter's wife was a Communist, and GARFIELD had sat silent with a hurt expression on his face. FOSTER said that at this point the thought occurred to him that a husband might have some legal privilege against answering such a question and being uncertain of his grounds did not press it further.

FOSTER and EPSTEIN stated that they had explained to GARFIELD that if he desires to prove himself non-Communist, he must take an active part in denouncing and fighting Communism. They stated that they had told GARFIELD that they expected him to be completely truthful and frank with them and that if they discovered evidence that he had not done so, they would denounce him. They said that to this date, they have been given no indication that GARFIELD was lying although they have heard that a mystery woman witness had appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and named GARFIELD as a Communist.

FOSTER advised that GARFIELD and his Attorney were apparently preparing some form of a statement explaining GARFIELD'S associations although he had not seen any portions of same.

On April 16, 1952, LEE J. COBB, Hollywood and Broadway actor, was interviewed by SAS [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] At this time, COBB was appearing with GARFIELD in the play "Golden Boy", which at this time was having a successful revival run in New York City. COBB stated that he had been acquainted with GARFIELD for several years, but offered no testimony as to GARFIELD'S political background and most certainly he could not testify as to GARFIELD'S membership in the Communist Party or YCL. He continued by saying that while he had known GARFIELD for many years, his associations with him had been purely social, inasmuch as

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they had played cards together on many occasions, but he was in no position to discuss GARFIELD'S political beliefs.

In conclusion, COBB was specifically asked if he was now or ever had been a member of the Communist Party, to which he replied "no".

On May 9, 1952, ELIA KAZAN was reinterviewed, but added no substantial details to the story which he had previously given to the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which, it will be recalled, was his admission to being a member of the Communist Party for approximately 18 months in the mid 1930's. At this time, KAZAN stated that GARFIELD definitely was not a member of the Communist Party Unit within the Group Theater to which KAZAN belonged during the period of his membership. He further stated that he had no knowledge of GARFIELD'S wife's membership in the Communist Party.

Confidential Informants T-5, T-6, T-7 and T-8, all of known reliability, who have been active in and familiar with Communist Party activities in the New York area for varied periods covering the last 15 years, advised they had no information as to whether GARFIELD had ever been a member of the Communist Party. (X)

Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, who was a functionary of the Communist Party for many years, advised that she always assumed that GARFIELD was "part of the Communist Party"; however, she did not know that he was actually a member.

Confidential Informant T-10, of known reliability, who was a member of the National Committee of the YCL during the late 1920's and early 1930's, stated that JOHN GARFIELD was unknown to him and he had no knowledge that the latter had ever been a member of these organizations.

In an effort to locate MARIE RENT, former GARFIELD maid reported to be residing at 55 West Broadway, Long Beach, New York, the following investigation was conducted by SAS

[redacted] and [redacted]

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Mrs. ANNA MORRISON, Switchboard Operator, Commander Hotel, 55 West Broadway, Long Beach, Long Island, New York, advised a check of the hotel records failed to reflect anyone by the name of MARIE FENT, either living at or employed by the Commander Hotel. No record could be located for MARIE FENT as ever having registered at the hotel. Mrs. MORRISON stated it is quite possible that MARIE FENT stayed at the hotel as a personal maid of some guest and that should this be the case her name would not appear on the register. Mrs. MORRISON advised that a Mrs. LIPPMAN was the only guest at the hotel at present having a personal maid.

Mrs. LIPPMAN stated she has had her present maid, FAITH LOVE for approximately one year and prior to that her maid was GLORIOUS HOPE, both negro and both followers of Father Divine. Mrs. LIPPMAN stated the name MARIE FENT was unknown to her.

FAITH LOVE advised that prior to her employment by Mrs. LIPPMAN, she was engaged in missionary work. FAITH LOVE stated the name MARIE FENT was unknown to her.

JOHN SCHMERTMANN, Building Superintendent, Broadway Apartments, 25 West Broadway, Long Beach, Long Island, New York (next to Commander Hotel), advised he had no record of a MARIE FENT ever living at the Broadway Apartments. Mr. SCHMERTMANN further advised the name MARIE FENT is unknown to him.

ARZIE SCHWARTZ, Superintendent of Mails, and HARRY MEYBOHM, Carrier covering West Broadway, Long Beach Post Office, Long Beach, Long Island, New York, had no record of a MARIE FENT and advised the name MARIE FENT is unknown to them.

There is no listing of a MARIE FENT in the Long Beach, Long Island, New York telephone directory.

The Board of Election records for Bronx and New York counties covering the known addresses of GARFIELD in New York during the past 27 years were checked without locating any voting registration for JOHN or ROBERTA GARFIELD.

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JOHN GARFIELD was interviewed by SAS [redacted] and [redacted] in this office on May 10, 1952, from 11:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. The interview was initiated by a call made by GARFIELD to this office on May 8, 1952, at which time he indicated that he desired to see the Agent in charge. GARFIELD, in accordance with an appointment made on May 8th, appeared at this office on May 10th, accompanied by an attorney, SIDNEY DAVIS, of the law firm of Philipp, Nizer, Benjamin, and Krim, 1501 Broadway, New York City.

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At the very commencement of the interview, GARFIELD was asked the purpose for which he came to this office and he advised that he had desired to visit this office and discuss his case with the Bureau from its very inception, but he had felt, as had his attorneys, that such a visit might be construed as an attempt on his part to influence the investigation. Accordingly, he waited until several days ago when the idea again occurred to him, and at this time his attorneys agreed with him, and accordingly a call was made requesting an appointment.

As the Bureau is aware, GARFIELD'S visit to this office was initiated by ARNOLD FOSTER of the Anti-Defamation League, with whom GARFIELD has been in touch for several months in an effort to gain their assistance in clearing his name of pro-Communist allegations. It is known that ARNOLD FOSTER, following a conversation with an official of this Bureau on May 7, 1952, intended to tell GARFIELD that he had come to the conclusion that if GARFIELD really wanted to make a clean breast of everything he should go to the FBI, tell his story, and agree to answer any questions.

GARFIELD was asked if he could furnish all of his New York addresses since the time of his school days, and after some consideration he furnished the following addresses for the approximate periods indicated:

1. Late 1920's and early 1930's: 2312 Prospect Avenue, Bronx, New York. GARFIELD stated that this was the home of his father at the time he attended school at P.S. 45 in the Bronx.
2. From approximately 1931 or 1932 until about 1934: An address further south in the Bronx from the aforementioned,

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probably in the vicinity of Southern Boulevard and Tremont Avenue. GARFIELD explained with reference to this address that his father had moved there during a period about the time that he left school and during which time he ran away from home several times and did not reside regularly at home.

3. About 1934: In the vicinity of 29th Street and Madison Avenue, New York City, where, GARFIELD advised, he resided in a furnished room over a store with the late MARTIN SLOANE, a puppeteer, who will be mentioned later herein.
4. About 1935: On 72nd Street just off Riverside Drive. GARFIELD explained that he and his wife occupied a furnished room in this vicinity for a period of seven or eight months after they became legally married in 1935.
5. About 1936: An apartment at an unrecalled address in Greenwich Village, which GARFIELD stated he shared with an actor, WALTER COY.
6. During 1936 and 1937: On 23rd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues at an unrecalled address. GARFIELD stated that he and his wife occupied a small apartment in a brownstone house in this vicinity and recalled specifically that it was in the same block as that of MARTIN SLOANE at the time of the latter's suicide.
7. Summer of 1937: Mt. Airy Road, Croton-on-Hudson, New York. GARFIELD stated that during this summer, while appearing in the play "Having a Wonderful Time", he and his wife leased a home at Croton while he commuted to the theater.
8. Fall of 1937 until summer of 1938: 125 or 135 Waverly Place (between Washington Square West and 6th Avenue, New York City). GARFIELD stated he resided at this address until he took up residence in Hollywood in 1938, where he remained until his return to New York in 1947.
9. 1947: 8 East 10th Street, New York City. GARFIELD advised that he and his wife occupied a furnished apartment at this address for a period of about six months in 1947.
10. 1948 to date: 88 Central Park West, where GARFIELD now resides with his wife and children.

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Concerning his background, GARFIELD stated that while in high school and before completion thereof, with the assistance of the late ANGELO PATRI, a well-known educator, child psychologist, and principal of P.S. 45 in the Bronx, New York, he secured a scholarship to the Actors Laboratory Theater, which was operated by two White Russians who are now dead, MARIA QUSPENSKAYA and RICHARD BOLESILAVSKY. He stated that one of the instructors at the school was JOHN MASON BROWN.

He stated that prior to the completion of his scholarship term, this school was disbanded and he became an apprentice in the Civic Repertoire Theater of EVANLA GALLIENNE. He stated that following his association with this group, he appeared briefly in a play entitled "Lost Boy" in 1932, and in the same year and for part of the following year appeared in a play entitled "Counselor at Law" with PAUL MUNI. Thereafter he appeared in a play entitled "Peace On Earth", produced by the Theater Union, following which he applied to the Group Theater as an apprentice but was turned down.

In the summer of 1934, he was employed as a counselor teaching drama at Twin Lakes Camp near Lake Bombaseen, Vermont, and in August of that year received notification from the Group Theater that he had been accepted as an apprentice. He joined the Group Theater in that capacity at Ellenville, New York, where the Group Theater maintained a large house in which its members dwelt and rehearsed. He stated that he continued with the Group Theater until 1938 when, failing to obtain the major role in a play which CLIFFORD ODETS, the playwright, had assured him he had written specifically for GARFIELD, he left the Group Theater and went to Hollywood.

GARFIELD was questioned as to whether or not he had in his possession cancelled checks for any considerable period and whether or not he would make them available to this office. GARFIELD stated that he believed that he had all of his cancelled checks back to and including 1947. He was asked whether or not he would have checks which had been issued in 1945, and he stated there was a possibility, although he was not certain. He was requested to endeavor to locate check #19 issued on June 11, 1945, in the amount of \$100, by his wife, and drawn on the Bank of America, National Trust and Savings Association,

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Sunset Clark Branch. GARFIELD stated he would endeavor to locate this check but advised that although this was a trustee account maintained jointly by him and his wife, it was an account used exclusively by his wife, over which he exercised no control and had no occasion to review the cancelled checks thereof.

GARFIELD was questioned as to whether he had made any contribution to "New Masses" magazine during this period in 1945, and reiterated his statement which he had previously made before the HCUA that he had never knowingly made any contribution to "New Masses", although he recalled having purchased the magazine on occasions to read articles appearing therein. He was questioned and denied any knowledge of or acquaintance with DORETTA TARMON or any conversation with her in which he or his wife might have indicated to TARMON that they would urge CLIFFORD ODETS to contribute to "New Masses".

Because of GARFIELD'S residence in the summer of 1937 at Croton-on-Hudson, he was questioned as to whether he was acquainted with JOE NORTH or ELIZABETH MOOS, and denied that he knew these people.

GARFIELD was questioned concerning his knowledge of and association with the Bronx Free Fellowship, and advised that in 1927 he was keeping company with a girl by the name of VIOLET EBERLE and that she had interested him in this organization and he had attended several meetings thereof. He stated that the Bronx Free Fellowship was a Socialist group run by one HARRY WARD, an anti-Communist; that the group held meetings in a Protestant church in the Bronx and had principally Protestant ministers as speakers before this group. He stated that he visited the Bronx Free Fellowship infrequently and that during this period he had no political interests whatsoever. GARFIELD emphatically denied any knowledge of a Communist or YCL group within the Bronx Free Fellowship or endeavoring to take over this organization.

GARFIELD was questioned concerning MARTIN SLOANE, with whom, he had previously advised, he resided, and he stated that he first met SLOANE through VICTOR WOLFSON, a writer and assistant stage manager of the play "Counselor at Law". He stated that SLOANE urged him to go to college and to give up acting. He stated that SLOANE was a highly emotional and

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rather neurotic individual with considerable marital difficulties and he subsequently was committed to an insane asylum, and after his release therefrom committed suicide. He was questioned as to whether he had any knowledge that SLOANE had been a member of the Communist Party and stated that he had no such knowledge; but that he recalled on one occasion while visiting SLOANE in an upstate insane asylum, SLOANE had made odd remarks to the effect that he was being followed.

GARFIELD stated that he was acquainted with PAUL MANN, the actor, had no knowledge that MANN was ever a member of the Communist Party or an organizer for the YCL, and denied that MANN had ever attempted to recruit him for either of the aforementioned two organizations.

GARFIELD was then questioned concerning his wife, ROBERTA, and he reiterated his denial of any knowledge that she had ever been a member of the Communist Party. He was questioned as to whether he was aware of an article which appeared in the "Los Angeles Daily News" of June 7, 1951 which indicated that there was a human interest story of card holder 25192 in 1943 and book #49817 in 1944, issued by Branch 8 of the Northwest Section of the Communist Party of Los Angeles. GARFIELD stated that he was unaware of the appearance of this article and stated that he had no indication that it referred to his wife.

He was questioned as to whether he was acquainted with one ELIZABETH LEACH and he denied any knowledge of or acquaintance with her. He was asked if he could give any explanation as to why she might have visited his home at 1712 North Stanley, Hollywood, California on August 31, 1944, and he advised that he had no explanation for this visit. He further explained that he was probably not at home at this time; that he may have been overseas entertaining the armed forces, or even if he were at home in Hollywood, it was his practice to leave home at about eleven in the morning when he was not making a picture and spend most of the day at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club.

GARFIELD was then questioned as to whether he was acquainted with LEO and BESS GOLDSTEIN. At this point, GARFIELD flushed visibly and then blanched and stated that he first met the GOLDSTEINS through his wife on his return from Hollywood.

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in late 1938 or early 1939, after having made his first picture. He stated that he saw them possibly three to five times and may possibly have visited their home, which he roughly recalled as being somewhere on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx. He stated that he seemed to recall having taken a day-long automobile trip with them somewhere in the country. He stated that he could not recall that they had a maid at that time and did not believe that he and his wife had a full-time maid, although they may have employed an occasional maid for work on a daily basis.

GARFIELD denied that he had any knowledge that LEO and BESS GOLDSTEIN were Communists, and denied that he had ever attended any Communist Party meetings at their home or that he had joined the Communist Party at their behest. He stated that he had no knowledge of any correspondence between his wife and the GOLDSTEINS following his return to Hollywood for permanent residence in 1939.

GARFIELD was questioned as to whether he was acquainted with MAX STEINBERG (former New York District Secretary of the Communist Party) and GARFIELD stated he could recall no individual by this name.

GARFIELD was questioned concerning his acquaintance with HANS EISLER, and stated that this was a casual social relationship, begun in Hollywood, where EISLER was a friend of CLIFFORD ODETS. He stated he met EISLER at several cocktail parties and denied that he gave the latter any financial assistance. He stated that EISLER was fairly well established in Hollywood motion picture circles when he met him, having written the music for several Hollywood productions. He stated that he visited EISLER'S home on one occasion, which was a beach house at Malibu, California, and he believes that on this occasion he accompanied ARNOLD SCHOENBERG to a beach party at EISLER'S home. He stated that he never knew HANS EISLER to be a Communist Party member and that, to the contrary, had heard the latter ridicule the Communists on occasions.

GARFIELD stated that he was not acquainted with a Mrs. FINLEY PETER DUNNE, was certain he had not attended any meeting at her home, and that he was never a member of the Hollywood League for Democratic Action.

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GARFIELD was questioned as to whether he had attended a meeting on April 3, 1941 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, under the auspices of the Hollywood chapter of the League of American Writers, and advised that he did not attend such a meeting and believed that at that time he was probably overseas entertaining troops, possibly in the Caribbean Theater. Concerning this trip to the Caribbean, GARFIELD stated that he does not recall being involved in any discussions or arguments during this trip with representatives of the Army, although he recalled that LAUREL and HARDY, the comedians, who were also part of the group, had a heated discussion with a General ANDREWS over the accommodations which they were afforded on one of the islands.

GARFIELD denied that he was ever associated in any way with the International Workers Order.

GARFIELD was questioned concerning his association with and activity on behalf of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, and the National Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions, and gave the following account of this activity:

He stated that he was never a member of the JAFRC, although he spoke on their behalf on several occasions and may have contributed to this organization in the form of purchase of dinner or theater tickets.

Concerning the NCASF, he stated that he may possibly have spoken on behalf of this organization on one or two occasions during the period from 1942 to 1944 and specifically may have appeared at a rally sponsored by this organization at Los Angeles.

Concerning the NCASF, he stated that he had contributed money to this organization during the period when HENRY WALLACE was associated with it and prior to the time that WALLACE had declared himself as a Presidential candidate. He stated that he recalled having met Professor HARLOW SHAPELY of Harvard University at a function of this organization in New York City, but was quite certain that he had not met the latter at Boston, Massachusetts. He stated that this only recollection of having

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visited Boston was for the opening of his picture "Body and Soul", at which time he also spoke at a Red Feathers rally, a Community Chest organization in Boston.

GARFIELD was then questioned concerning his presence in Washington, D.C., in March and April, 1940, and advised that since his testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities he has recalled that he appeared in Washington with the play "Heavenly Express" at the National Theater. He reiterated the denial previously made before the HCUA that he had attended a meeting of the National Negro Congress. The photograph taken of GARFIELD and others at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA was then exhibited to GARFIELD, and he stated that he had no recollection of this photograph having been taken and inquired as to whether it was he who appeared in the front center section of this photograph. He was assured that it was and he reiterated his denial of any recollection of this photograph having been taken. He stated that he was unable to recall any of the individuals appearing in this photograph with him.

GARFIELD was then questioned concerning the Group Theater camp at Ellenville, New York in the summer of 1934. He stated that he had no knowledge of any Communist Party activity having taken place at this camp, and when questioned as to any labor difficulties which existed there, he stated there was continuous trouble throughout the time of the camp's existence with the domestic help and that he was not concerned with these troubles because he was there "on the cuff". He stated that his wife was not a regular guest at the camp but visited there occasionally and that they were not "officially married" at that time. He was questioned as to his knowledge of a Communist Party group within the Group Theater which has been named by ELIA KAZAN, and denied knowledge of the existence of such a Communist Party group, and further denied that any of the individuals named had ever attempted to recruit him on behalf of the Communist Party.

He was questioned as to whether he had been involved in an incident in Ellenville regarding a bottle of whiskey and whether he had made the statement, "This is a Communist group and everything here belongs to everyone", and he stated that

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he does not recall having made the statement and that he would not have made such a statement because he had no such knowledge. He stated further that it was extremely unlikely that he would be involved in any incident involving a bottle of whiskey at that time because he did not drink much then and did not commence to drink whiskey until he went to Hollywood.

GARFIELD was questioned concerning XANDU FILMS, with which he was allegedly interested. He stated that this corporation was organized by BOB ROBERTS, together with DALTON TRUMBO, RICHARD COLLINS, HUGO BUTLER, and RING LARDNER, Jr. He stated that he was told by ROBERTS that CARY GRANT, JOHN HUSTON, and GARFIELD were being invited to join the company which would produce "socially significant" films. He stated he invested approximately \$1,000 in this company and attended two or three meetings, but that to his knowledge GRANT or HUSTON never did become financially or otherwise interested. He stated that at the meetings, various possible stories and productions were discussed but there was never any indication of Communist Party activity, and that the company never went into production and eventually failed, with a consequential financial loss to him.

GARFIELD was questioned as to several of his alleged friends and acquaintances who have been reported to have been Communist Party members, and with reference to all of these he advised that he had no knowledge that any of them were members of the Communist Party, although he has since learned through newspapers and other public communications that some are apparently members. No effort was made to question GARFIELD specifically on all of his acquaintances because of his general statement, which was reiterated in this interview, that he never knew any individual to be a member of the Communist Party. The persons concerning whom GARFIELD was specifically questioned and the comments which he made concerning them are set forth hereafter:

MORTON GRANT - GARFIELD stated that he had no recollection of ever having met this individual.

ED BIEBERMAN - GARFIELD identified this individual as a painter whom he had met socially but never knew to be a Communist Party member.

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JOHN HOWARD ~~LAWSON~~ - GARFIELD stated that he had met this individual and was specifically questioned as to the nature of his relationship with LAWSON, since there had been allegations that LAWSON was GARFIELD'S Hollywood Communist Party contact, but GARFIELD insisted that the only occasions when he saw LAWSON were social and that he had no knowledge that the latter was a member of the Communist Party.

PAUL ~~JARRICO~~ - GARFIELD stated that he had met JARRICO socially and had no knowledge that he had been a Communist Party member.

Dr. LEO BIEGELMAN - GARFIELD stated he had no recollection of ever having met this individual.

DOROTHY TREE - GARFIELD stated that he knew Miss TREE as an actress who was on the board of Screen Actors Guild and had no other knowledge of her.

LESTER FULLER - GARFIELD stated that he knew FULLER casually through the Beverly Hills Tennis Club, but never knew him to be a Communist Party member.

MADELINE ~~RUTHHAVEN~~ (reported to have been Organizational Secretary of the Hollywood Communist Party at the time GARFIELD came from New York City) - GARFIELD stated that he did not know this individual.

BOB REED, also known as BOB CAILLE - GARFIELD stated that he recalled REED as an actor active in the Equity Association but never knew him to be a Communist Party member.

V.J. JEROME - GARFIELD stated that he had no knowledge of this individual and had never met him.

JOHN (SHORTIE) STEUBEN - GARFIELD stated he did not know and had never met this individual.

In explanation of his statement before the HCUA and to the interviewing agents that he never knew an individual to be a member of the Communist Party, GARFIELD stated that he originally made this statement before the HCUA because while

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he might have had suspicions that persons were members of the Communist Party, he did not wish to testify concerning suspicions and felt that he would be only justified in naming a person as a member of the Communist Party if he had seen the latter's Party card or other positive indication of Communist Party membership.

GARFIELD was again questioned concerning the Group Theater Communist Party unit, with particular reference to TED WELLMAN, also known as SID BENSON. GARFIELD stated that he recalled WELLMAN as an individual who frequented the Group Theater and also as an individual whom he met casually in Hollywood in later years where WELLMAN was a radio and screen writer. GARFIELD reiterated that WELLMAN had never indicated that he was a member of the Communist Party and that he had no knowledge of such membership.

GARFIELD was questioned discreetly concerning the allegations which have been made by JEAN CARMEN DILLOW. He was questioned and denied that he ever had a key to an apartment of CLIFFORD ODETS in Greenwich Village, and stated that ODETS was not the type who would make his apartment available to anyone. He was asked whether he recalled ever having brought an individual to this apartment and having offered Communist Party literature to this individual. GARFIELD denied this and at this point commented that undoubtedly the agents were referring to the Wampas Baby star who was reported to have testified against him. He stated he could not have been associated with any Wampas Baby star because the last of the Wampas Baby stars had been designated long before his arrival in Hollywood.

GARFIELD thereafter continued by stating that he had tried without success to recall any association which he might have had with a JEAN CARMEN. It is to be noted that to the knowledge of this office, Miss CARMEN'S testimony has not been publicly released by the HCUA and the source of GARFIELD'S information as to her identity remains unknown. He thereafter commented that he could recall the names of every woman with whom he had slept from Los Angeles to New York, but the name JEAN CARMEN was completely unfamiliar to him.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

He was questioned as to whether he had ever visited the apartment of ERNIE BYFIELD in Chicago, and stated that while he was a close friend of BYFIELD and had visited the latter on every occasion when he passed through Chicago, he had never visited BYFIELD'S apartment, but rather had seen the latter at the Pump Room which the late BYFIELD managed at the Ambassador East Hotel. He stated that he recalled having participated in the "I Am An American Day" celebration in Chicago in May, 1943, but had no recollection of having attended the opening of the play "Three Sisters" or having thereafter attended a supper party at the apartment of ERNIE BYFIELD.

It is noted that while GARFIELD has no recollection of this party and specifically denies having attended it, PAULETTE GODDARD, BURGESS MEREDITH, and JEAN CARMEN have a distinct recollection of it having occurred at BYFIELD'S apartment.

GARFIELD was questioned and recalled having been on location at Monterey, California, during the making of the picture "Daughters Courageous", but was unable to recall whether or not he stayed at the Delmonte Hotel, and stated he has no recollection of having been ill during this period. He was questioned concerning having attended a Spanish night club in New York with JACK GOLDSTEIN, and stated he was unable to recall this individual.

GARFIELD was again questioned at this point concerning any possible knowledge which he might have concerning his wife's membership in the Communist Party, with particular reference to LEO and BESS GOLDSTEIN. GARFIELD began to explain that from the very beginning of their marriage, he and his wife had had vast political differences. He stated that she was extremely to the left while he would classify his own political feelings as liberal. He stated that following the Hitler-Stalin pact in 1939, their differences became even more marked and have resulted in frequent and violent arguments between them. He commented that it was his feeling that she was "probably the cause of all of my troubles". He then digressed into an unrelated discussion of the death of his young daughter in 1947, following which he again began to speak of his wife's left wing activities, and thereafter broke down crying, stating "She has ruined me, I am finished".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

He explained thereafter that he feels that he is no longer acceptable in motion pictures, radio or television, and has been unable to secure contracts therein, and that the only field left for him is the legitimate theater and the opportunities there are limited insofar as he is concerned. It is to be noted that at the outset of this interview, GARFIELD had indicated that one of the reasons for his coming to this office for an interview was because he was unable to obtain employment in the theater.

GARFIELD then inquired as to whether he was free to go abroad if necessary to obtain employment, and was told that he was free to travel anywhere; that this was merely an investigation being conducted to determine the truth of statements which he had made under oath and that no legal action had been taken which would have the effect of detaining him in the United States.

GARFIELD, in departing, indicated that he intended to have a very serious talk with his wife and attempt to clarify some of the issues which had arisen in this interview. In this thought he was joined by his attorney, Mr. DAVIS, who stated he would like to compel ROBERTA GARFIELD to appear at this office and tell her complete story. DAVIS continued that he had always had a personal dislike for ROBERTA GARFIELD and confided, after having obtained permission from GARFIELD, that several weeks ago the latter approached him and requested him to secure a divorce in his behalf. DAVIS stated that he and his partner, LOUIS NIZER, at that time urged GARFIELD not to obtain a divorce while the investigation was pending. DAVIS reiterated that he intended to personally see Mrs. GARFIELD and attempt to obtain the information from her which would resolve this matter, although he indicated that he might be unsuccessful since he felt Mrs. GARFIELD'S political feelings were still to the far left.

The interviewing agents advised GARFIELD and his attorney that any action they took with regard to Mrs. GARFIELD was a matter of their own concern and that the interviewing agents were not urging such an action, but that if she did appear at this office, we would receive any information which she might offer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On May 19, 1952, SIDNEY DAVIS, GARFIELD'S Attorney, telephonically advised SA [ ] that a search of GARFIELD'S records had failed to locate Check No. 19 dated June 11, 1945 in the amount of \$100.00, known to the New York Office to have been deposited to the "New Masses" account. He further stated that he had spoken to Mrs. GARFIELD and endeavored to have her visit the New York Office for an interview and that she had flatly refused to do so. DAVIS advised that as a result of this, GARFIELD had left his wife and would divorce her some time during the summer. In addition, he stated that he was presently drawing up a separation agreement.

b6  
b7c

The files of the New York City Police Department reflect that JOHN GARFIELD was found dead the morning of May 21, 1952 by IRIS WHITNEY in her apartment at 3 Gramercy Park, New York City. GARFIELD was pronounced dead by Dr. CHARLES N. AMMACK, 125 East 63rd Street, New York City, who had been treating GARFIELD for a heart attack and attributed the death to this illness. The body was released by the medical examiner of New York County on the same day without an autopsy.

It will be recalled that information had been received from VICTOR RIESEL that additional documents had been made out by GARFIELD prior to his death, which consisted of several pages of notes of dictation to the Secretary of ARNOLD FOSTER of the Anti-Defamation League. These notes substantially pointed out the identity of the individual who contacted GARFIELD in connection with various fronts and related the manner in which one of GARFIELD'S Secretaries influenced his participation in various activities and allegedly gave a very good and complete picture of GARFIELD'S activities.

On June 23, 1952, GARFIELD'S Attorney, SIDNEY DAVIS, was interviewed by SAS [ ] and [ ] concerning the existence of the above notes. This time DAVIS stated that he knew of no such notes to be in existence, but he believed they referred to a letter written by GARFIELD to DAVIS' partner, ARTHUR KREM, who was to present this letter to SPYROUS SKOURAS, who was at that time a potential movie employer of GARFIELD. DAVIS said that this letter simply outlined GARFIELD'S testimony before the HCUA and gave

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GARFIELD'S recollection of the nature of his association with persons about whom he was questioned by the HCUA. DAVIS stated that RIESEL was in error in stating that notes from this letter related to the manner in which one of GARFIELD'S secretaries influenced his participation in various activities. DAVIS reiterated that this letter contained nothing which had not previously been stated by GARFIELD to the HCUA and the Bureau.

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



NY 100-69074

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ADMINISTRATIVE

INFORMANTS

<u>IDENTITY OF SOURCE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTIVITY OR DESCRIPTION OF INFO.</u>	<u>DATE RGVD.</u>	<u>AGENT WHO RECEIVED INFO.</u>	<u>FILE NO. AND LOCATION</u>
T-1 HCUA	Anonymous ltr. to Rep. DONALD L. JACKSON, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.	5/26/51	[REDACTED]	100-69074 - 1B4
T-2 Trash cover	[REDACTED]	6/25/45	[REDACTED]	100-26603 - C59-4,p.4
T-3 [REDACTED]		3/1/48 (U)		
T-4 [REDACTED]		4/23/52	[REDACTED] JOHN W. DOOLEY, [REDACTED] orally	Instant report b2 b6 b7C b7D
T-5 [REDACTED] X	(U)	8/2/51	[REDACTED] JOHN W. DOOLEY, [REDACTED] orally	Instant report
T-6 [REDACTED] (U)		8/2/51	JOHN W. DOOLEY, orally	Instant report

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-69074

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE

<u>IDENTITY OF SOURCE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTIVITY OR DESCRIPTION OF INFO.</u>	<u>DATE RCVD.</u>	<u>AGENT WHO RECEIVED INFO.</u>	<u>FILE NO. AND LOCATION</u>
T-7 [redacted] (S) u		8/12/51	JOHN W. DOOLEY, orally	Instant report
T-8 [redacted] (S) u		8/12/51	JOHN W. DOOLEY, orally	Instant report
T-9 [redacted]		10/30/51	JOHN W. DOOLEY, orally	Instant report
T-10 [redacted]		3/21/52	[redacted] orally	Instant report

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

MISCELLANEOUS

Copies of this report are being furnished Los Angeles and Washington Field for information purposes and possible future reference.

REFERENCE

Bureau letter to New York, 8/5/52

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, New York (100-69074)

October 1, 1952

Director, FBI (100-335707)

JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

23253

Reurlet 9-9-52.

In the event Attorney Sidney Davis has not yet had an opportunity to contact Mrs. Garfield, it is suggested that the New York Office submit the final investigative report in this matter at this time. The Bureau is desirous of forwarding this report to the Department as soon as possible and it is not considered expedient to continue to hold in abeyance the submission of the final report pending the outcome of the contact between Davis and Mrs. Garfield.

Should pertinent data be developed as a result of any contact by Davis with Mrs. Garfield, such information, of course, may be furnished to the Bureau subsequent to the submission of the closing report and the Department may be informed accordingly.

WWK:jdt

RECORDED - 35

OCT. 8 1952

137

EX-129

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
OCT 1 6 31 PM '52

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 6  
OCT 9 - 1952  
COMM-FBI

SP9 AG/AMU 7/19/95 #340,141  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 0-30-87 BY 88575/128

300 P/93  
OCT 10 1952

mb  
Assistant Attorney General Charles B. Murray  
Criminal Division

October 6, 1952

Director, FBI

JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY  
FBI file 100-335707 - 259

23252

EX - 103 RECORDED - 16

Reference is made to the memorandum from the Criminal Division dated May 25, 1951, (JMM:DIF:ub 146-1-12-845), in the captioned matter.

Attached is a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 25, 1952, at New York, concerning the subject.

b6  
b7C

Due to Garfield's death, no additional investigation will be conducted in this regard in the absence of a specific request.

Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED BY 10-20-00  
ON 10-20-00

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OCT 6 4 32 PM '52  
FBI - NEW YORK

RECEIVED  
OCT 6 1952  
FBI - NEW YORK

366

FBI  
REC'D REGIONAL

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "JMM" and "7-10-52".

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-335707)

DATE: 10/9/53

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-22503)

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, was.  
SM - C; PERJURY

OO: New York

SP9 AG/Amj 7/9/95 #340,141  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/ogp

Interviews have been held recently with Mr. HOUSELEY STEVENSON, Jr., 15237 Hesby Street, Sherman Oaks, California, who is a stage and film actor by background and training although currently employed as an electrician's helper by the Southern Pacific Railway, Los Angeles. STEVENSON joined the Communist Party (CP) at Los Angeles in 1936 and after a few months went to New York City, transferring his CP membership to the New York CP. He was assigned to what he recalls as a theatrical branch in the CP's Cultural Section in New York in 1938-39. He returned to Los Angeles in 1940 by which time he says he had dropped out of the CP altogether and did not re-affiliate with it. A report covering the results of the interviews with STEVENSON has been furnished the Bureau under the caption HOUSELEY STEVENSON, Jr., wa., SM - C.

STEVENSON identified some twelve individuals he knew as CP members in New York during the period of his membership there and identifying data furnished by him concerning these individuals has previously been furnished the New York Office.

In addition to these however, STEVENSON stated he believed the late JOHN GARFIELD, stage and film actor, may have been a member of the theatrical branch of the New York CP to which STEVENSON was assigned in 1938-39. STEVENSON himself was dues collector for this branch for a time during this period. Although he cannot recall ever having seen GARFIELD in attendance at a branch meeting, STEVENSON specifically recalls that as dues collector for the branch he was sent on one occasion to contact GARFIELD following a late study group meeting where GARFIELD would be. STEVENSON was to collect back dues from GARFIELD and he did contact the actor as arranged.

REG (AM)

MMB:fc

cc: New York (100-69074) (REG)

100-335707-259

OCT 12 1953

63 OCT 16 1953

RECORDED-29

INDEXED-29

COPIES DESTROYED 11/14/60 100-22503

100-335707-259

LA 100-22503

STEVENSON cannot recall the exact nature of the study group meeting or just where it was held but he says he definitely recalls talking to GARFIELD on this occasion as a Party member and that it was a rather sizeable sum in back dues which he was to try to collect from GARFIELD. GARFIELD did not pay the total amount due at this time although he did agree to take care of it. STEVENSON thinks that GARFIELD may have already had his initial success in the Hollywood films by this time and was perhaps visiting New York from Hollywood.

STEVENSON cannot recall GARFIELD's name being on the membership rolls of the branch and he is definite that he never saw GARFIELD at a meeting of the branch. At the same time, however, STEVENSON feels sure that it was back dues which he was to have collected from GARFIELD and not merely a contribution to some front or similar activity.

Above is being furnished for the Bureau 's information and completion of the Bureau file.

RUC



Director, FBI (61-10149)

February 2, 1954

SAC, New York (100-80675)

CIVIL RIGHTS CONCERNS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;

INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-30-87 BY 208 BTJ/pf

The Los Angeles Office, by letter dated July 24, 1951, captioned "JOHN GARFIELD, was, SECURITY MATTER - C; PERJURY" furnished the Bureau and the New York Office with photostatic copies of what purports to be a special report entitled "The Story of the Birth of the Congress on Civil Rights - a New Communist Front Organization," issued by the National Laymen's Council, Church League of America, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 4, Illinois, containing a letterhead on the Congress on Civil Rights, Detroit, Michigan, April 27, 1946, and also setting out in some detail the proceedings and speeches of the two day Congress on Civil Rights.

The Los Angeles letter states that the original of the latter photostat is in the possession of [redacted] which was earlier made available to him by RENA VALE, Chicago, Illinois, formerly of Los Angeles, where she was a member of the local Communist Party and subsequently appeared as a witness before the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities and who is described as being located in Chicago, where she has been periodically contacted by the Chicago Office.

b2  
b7D

- 1 Bureau (100-33507, JOHN GARFIELD)
- 2 Chicago (100-18155, CRC) RM
- 2 Los Angeles (1 100-23717, CRC) (1 100-22503, JOHN GARFIELD) RM
- 1 NY 100-69074 (JOHN GARFIELD)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 61-10149

DPA:RM

AUG 13 1958

100-335707-✓

NOT RECORDED  
98 FEB 17 1954

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-80675

According to the Los Angeles letter, [ ] has stated that the Special Report on the Congress on Civil Rights described in the foregoing was published by GEORGE W. ROBNETT, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, who is described as anti-Communist and cooperative, who either attended the meeting at Detroit himself or had someone there to cover it.

b2  
b7D

Los Angeles should furnish the Chicago Office with any additional information available from [ ] concerning his receipt of report described above, and the possible coverage of the Detroit Conference by ROBNETT. Chicago should consider contacting ROBNETT referred to in the foregoing for the purpose of ascertaining whether he or an associate of his attending the April 27, 1946 conference at Detroit has pertinent documents and information regarding the Detroit Conference and whether he or associate covering same would be available to appear as a Government witness before the SAGB on the subject organization.

DIRECTOR, FBI (61-10119)

March 4, 1954

SAC, CHICAGO (100-18155)

CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS  
IS - C; ISA of 1950

23254

Reference New York letter to the Director dated February 2, 1954, captioned as above.

GEORGE W. ROBBETT, Executive Director, National Laymen's Council, 1217 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, advised on February 10, 1954, that an associate of his attended the Congress of Civil Rights, Detroit, Michigan, April 27, 1946. This associate submitted a typewritten report on the Congress, as well as documents distributed at the Congress. ROBBETT stated that shortly after this Congress he made available all information and documents to Senator CARL MUNDT, a personal friend of ROBBETT. These documents allegedly were photostated and retained in the file of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The originals were returned to ROBBETT. Because of the personal relationship between himself and his associate, ROBBETT requested that he be able to first contact his associate before divulging his name.

On this date ROBBETT made available all documents in his files relating to the April 27, 1947, Congress. The Bureau is being furnished two photostatic copies of this material; New York is being furnished one copy; Chicago is retaining one copy of material furnished.

The documents furnished by ROBBETT are described as follows:

1. "Advance Credential and Reservation <sup>BLANK</sup> ~~Form~~".
2. Flyer announcing "Public Session, Congress on Civil Rights", April 27.

Encls.

GEJ:LMA

REGISTERED

CC: 1 - Bureau 100-33507 (JOHN GARFIELD) (RM)  
2 - Los Angeles (RM)  
1 - 100-23717 (CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS)  
1 - 100-22503 (JOHN GARFIELD)  
2 - New York (RM) (Encl.)  
1 - 100-59074 (JOHN GARFIELD)  
1 - 100-80675 (CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS)  
1 - Detroit (65-357) (Info.) (RM)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-81 BY 2028519

NOT RECORDED  
105 MAR 17 1954  
ALL INFORMATION ON ORIGINAL

37 MAR 19 1954

366

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-18155-3559

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS  
IS - C; ISA of 1950

3. 14 page typewritten report of proceedings at April 27, 28, 1946, Congress on Civil Rights.
4. List of committees.
5. Program: Congress on Civil Rights. 23255
6. "Aims and program of the Congress on Civil Rights".
7. "Information for delegates."
8. "Keynote speech at opening luncheon".
9. "How the Congressman has voted on the Wood-Rankin Committee".
10. "Nominations and Continuations Committee".
11. "This is not Contempt".
12. List of resolutions.
13. "The Ferguson Killings in Freeport".
14. Letter to Mr. ROBBETT dated May 1, 1946.
15. Special report, published by National Laymen's Council, Church League of America.
16. "Resolutions Against Peonage".
17. "Resolutions Against Discrimination in any Trade Union Body."
18. Resolution on anti-Semitism.
19. "Suppression of Picket Lines".

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS  
IS - C; ISA of 1950

20. "A resolution to provide indemnification for losses suffered by persons of Japanese ancestry by reason of their evacuation without trial or hearing".
21. "Resolution on Rights of Foreign Born".
22. "Resolution in Support of the Rights of the Workers in the South to Organize".
23. Mimeographed page without title setting forth decisions of the Congress on Civil Rights.
24. "Resolution on Group Liabilities".

23256

On February 18, 1954, Mr. KOENETT advised that he had contacted his associate and received permission to divulge his name. This individual's name is DONALDSON CRAIG, 4835 Second Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan. KOENETT described CRAIG as a professor who is in his 70's. CRAIG indicated that he would be willing to appear before the Subversive Activities Control Board in this matter if his services are needed.

Attention is directed to exhibit #3 described above. Contents thereof should be carefully reviewed because of its controversial nature.

The Detroit office is not requested to contact DONALDSON CRAIG, unless subsequently instructed by the Bureau.

The original of the above described exhibits were returned to Mr. KOENETT on February 18, 1954, and will remain in his possession.

From information of the Los Angeles Division the report entitled "The Story of the Birth of the Congress on Civil Rights--A New Communist Front Organization" is believed identical with exhibit #15 mentioned above. As requested by Los Angeles letter to Director dated February 16, 1954, and captioned as above the Los Angeles office will be furnished a copy of exhibit #15 as soon as photostat is prepared.

ENCLOSURES

Two to the Bureau, exhibits 1--24.  
One to New York, exhibits 1--24.

January 9, 1970

REC-5 100-335707-260

Mr. Larry Swindell  
Grenoble Farm  
Ivyland, Pennsylvania 18974

Dear Mr. Swindell:

I have received your letter of January 3rd and want to thank you for your birthday greetings.

While I would like to be of assistance to you, it will not be possible as information in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret I cannot be of help in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 24  
JAN - 9 1970

COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-30-87 BY SP3 BTJ/agp  
p6

1 - Philadelphia - Enclosure

NOTE: Our files contain no identifiable information regarding Mr. Swindell. John Garfield was subject of Bufiles 100-335707, Security Matter-C; Perjury.

FMG:cae (4)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

29  
JAN 20 1970  
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

January 3, 1970

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The address is incomplete, but surely this will reach you, along with many people's wishes for a happy birthday. I add my own.

At present I am engaged in a biography of the late actor, Mr. John Garfield, to be published by Simon & Schuster either next fall or the following spring. My letter is in that interest.

I have reviewed Mr. Garfield's testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee, in 1947 and again in 1951, and have discussed this participation with numerous friends and/or professional associates of Mr. Garfield whom I've interviewed. I have also screened the newspaper coverage of his involvement, particularly the articles written after his death. Those pieces, plus implications made in the personal interviews, have invited the supposition that Mr. Garfield was, at the time of his death, under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; he was known to be working on some disclosure that would "clear" himself, at the time of his death in 1952.

Although I know very little of the proper procedure with your office, and would propose no action that would not be compatible with your regular operation, I should like to find out as much as I could of this particular chapter of almost 20 years ago. Is it possible for me to learn if there is an F.B.I. file on Mr. Garfield? Then, if there is, is it possible that any of this may be made available to me, under any means of surveillance?

I am a biographer, rather opposed to deliberate sensationalism, and aim at a straightforward account of a man's tragedy that was partly artistic, partly political, and partly personal. Published this year was my biography of Spencer Tracy; it was honorably received, and I think it attests to my ability to handle potentially volatile material in a dignified manner.

I shall be optimistic about hearing from you, and I thank you for every consideration.

REC-5

100-335707-260

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-30-87 BY SP8 BTJ/STJ

Sincerely, and with enormous respect,

*Larry Swindell*

Larry Swindell  
 Grenoble Farm  
 Ivyland, Pennsylvania  
 18974

EXP. PROC.

JAN 6 1970

*at home 1-9-90 mgj*

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. *McGUIRE*

DATE: FEB 16 1959

FROM : L. E. *SHORT*

SUBJECT: JOHN GARFIELD, was  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Bulky Exhibit File Number: 100-335707-139

We are in the process of reviewing all bulky exhibits in order that we may dispose of those which serve no further purpose. Inasmuch as many of the bulky exhibits pertain to inactive cases and are occupying badly needed space, it is requested that the appropriate substantive supervisor review the above-listed bulky exhibit and render a decision as to its retention or disposition. A notation as to the decision reached may be placed on this memorandum. The memorandum should be returned to the Filing Unit of the Records Branch, Room 1113, Identification Building, for filing in the case file.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That captioned bulky exhibit be reviewed and a decision rendered as to the retention or disposition of the material.

*Done*  
*2/20/59*  
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**New York Post**

210 SOUTH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10002

April 18, 1974

PAUL SANN  
Executive Editor

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I am writing not in connection with my position here on the New York Post but in my outside role of author and historian.

I am engaged at the moment in research on John Garfield, the late actor, and his experiences with the House Un-American Activities Committee back in 1951-'52. I understand that in that period--in fact just before his death of a heart attack--Mr. Garfield underwent some voluntary interrogation in the FBI with respect to his testimony before the Committee in Washington and the allegations of pro-communist activities on his part. My information is that Mr. Garfield was interviewed by FBI agents Jack Danahy and James Brackett. I understand from your New York office that both men are now out of the Bureau.

For purposes of producing a correct and accurate history of the movie actor's life, I wonder if the FBI would make available to me the record of the Garfield interrogation. I am preparing a book on him and I think a look at the true account would be useful, since so many unsubstantiated statements and rumors were published after his death.

I would appreciate your consideration in this matter.

For your information, my books include: PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE WILD WEST, THE LAWLESS DECADE, FADS, FOLLIES, AND DELUSIONS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE and KILL THE DUTCHMAN.

REC-110  
Very sincerely yours,

PAUL SANN

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LEGAL COUNSEL

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May 1, 1974

1 - Mr. Mintz  
1 - Mr. Wannall - Enclosure

Mr. Paul Sann  
Executive Editor  
New York Post  
210 South Street  
New York, New York 10002

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10-30-87 BY 20815 JAL/p

Dear Mr. Sann:

Your letter of April 18th has been received.

In response to your request for data in our files concerning John Garfield, this information is contained in investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes and would certainly be an unwarranted invasion of this individual's privacy. Both of these come within the enumerated exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act, specifically subsection (b)(6) and (7) of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. For your information, I am enclosing a copy of Attorney General Order 528-73.

You may appeal by decision in this matter by writing the Attorney General, Attention: Office of Legal Counsel, Washington, D. C. 20530. Additionally, judicial review is thereafter available in the District of Columbia, the location of the records to which you seek access.

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FBI

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Enclosure

1 - Office of the Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure

1 - Bufile 62-115530 (FOI-REPLIES)

NOTE: Bufiles reflect several references to author Paul Sann of the New York Post. Sann was one of five officials of the New York Post who were sued for libel in a \$1 million suit brought by Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer. The March 10, 1952, issue of the New York Post referred to a chapter on labor in the book, "USA Confidential" by Lait and Mortimer, as "the ed:bjy (9)"

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE 2

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cc dest. a/mw 5/8/75

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For Jett 4756

Mr. Paul Sann

first literature in the field to begin with a flat lie." Disposition of suit not shown. Sann has been executive editor of the New York Post since 1946 and has authored several books. John Garfield was the subject of a Security Matter - C - Perjury investigation initiated in 1941 and closed in June, 1952. Garfield died of heart failure in June, 1952.